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OUR POLICY IN AFGHANISTAN.

The Government seem to be resolved that public attention shall continue to be distracted from home politics by complications in the East. No sooner is the fear of war in Europe finally dissipated than a cloud is seen to be rising on the north-western horizon of India. The mission of Sir Neville Chamberlain to Cabul has not only ominous associations to those who remember the last Afghan war, but is actually spoken of in the Ministerial papers as the possible preliminary of another. Nobody knows exactly what Sir Neville Chamberlain is going to do at Cabul. The ostensible object of his mission is that of counteracting Russian intrigues; but it is not quite clear what kind of counter-influence he is to set up. General Abramoff has been at the Afghan capital, and is still there; and the Ameer has been showing him his army and making considerable signs of friendship for Russia. It seems that General Abramoff's mission was undertaken at the time when all Europe believed that our Government was determined to go to war with Russia, and Russia contemplated possible retaliation by stirring up disaffection in India. It is believed, moreover, that the Czar has persuaded the Ameer to hand over the territory of Wakkan to the Russian authorities on the Oxus. This cession may only have been contemplated at a time when a rupture between England and Russia was regarded as inevitable, and it will probably not be carried out now that the friendly relations of the two countries have, happily, been preserved. In case it should be carried out, our quarrel would be less with the Ameer than with the Cabinet of St. Petersburg. Some years ago an arrangement was made between the Cabinets of London and St. Petersburg by which Afghanistan was to remain as a neutral territory between the frontiers of our Indian Empire and those of Russia. On this understanding, by which the Afghan territories were guaranteed against Russian aggression, the progress of Russian annexation in Central Asia has been allowed to go on without any protest from our side. It has been no concern of ours. If Russia chose to annex the hideous deserts and barren steppes of Central Asia, and submit their lawless hordes to civilised government, it was not for us to stop her. But it has been felt that annexation must be arrested somewhere; and Russia undertook that it should stay at the Afghan territory. Had our Government declared war against Russia during the late European difficulties, the Czar would have held himself absolved from this pledge; and the proposed annexation of Wakkan was most likely meant as a practical declaration that

the agreement was at an end. The peace, happily, has not been broken; and it is not likely that the annexation of Wakkan will take place. If any further steps were taken in the matter, our remonstrances would have to be made at St. Petersburg and not at Cabul. The Government would have to remind Russia of her pledges, and keep her to them.

It is not probable that this question of Wakkan is at the bottom of Sir Neville Chamberlain's mission. He is going to Cabul to counteract Russian influence, and to substitute for it British influence. It is a sort of mission of friendship to be supported by threats. It seems to be intended to say to Shere Ali, that if he will not take the Indian Government as his fast friend, he must accept its active enmity. Sir Lewis Pelly went some time ago on what is supposed to have been a similar errand, and got a rebuff. Sir Neville Chamberlain is to go with a kind of tacit understanding that he is not to be rebuffed. His mission is to be composed of infantry and cavalry to the number, with the camp followers, of about a thousand men. A safe conduct has been secured through the Khyber Pass, so gallantly forced by General Pollock in the last disastrous Afghan war; and hostages have been taken from the Khyberes, who hold the Pass, in testimony of their good faith. Indian rumour says that preparations are being made to follow up the mission with yet stronger measures, if necessary. Sir Neville Chamberlain is now waiting to know whether the Ameer will receive him; and if the Ameer refuses, we may have another Afghan war. We conquered the country before, but at a tremendous sacrifice of money and life, and we might conquer it again. The military authorities declare that it would be little more than a military parade, though Shere Ali, when he threatened to roll the border tribes against the British Government "like blasts of fire," was not uttering words altogether without meaning. Of course it is hoped that the Ameer will accept the mission, and that in this way war will be avoided. The cloud, we are assured, will break, and net in tempest. These assurances, however, show that there is danger of war; and if war breaks out then Afghanistan is to be annexed. If, on the other hand, the Ameer receives the mission in a spirit of assumed friendliness, it is almost to amount to annexation. He is to become a protected sovereign. Afghanistan is to be made a British dependency in order to prevent it from becoming a Russian camp.

This is the form in which the new Indian policy is presented by its advocates. How far it is likely to be carried out has probably not yet been decided even by Lord Lytton and Lord Beaconsfield. We are justified, however, in regarding it as not unlikely that Afghanistan may in one of these ways be practically annexed to the Indian Empire. It is the Indian side of the policy of a big England with which the Tory demagogues are endeavouring to dazzle the householders at home. Granting that Russia has all the desire with which she is credited to disturb our Indian Empire, this policy moves half-way to meet her. She will no longer have the Passes between her and her enemy, but we shall have them between us and our base. To reach us, as matters now stand, Russia would have to march several hundred miles through difficult country, and then find a huge mountain barrier to traverse, behind which was the British army with a complete system of railways and a great river connecting it with the sea. To annex Afghanistan, or to pledge ourselves

to its defence, is to forego all these advantages; and to place ourselves four hundred miles in advance of our impregnable line. There is, moreover, the danger which we are often reminded of, that our Empire may be too extended for successful defence. We are told, even now, that the Native armies in India are a growing danger; but that danger would be indefinitely increased if we had to spread our own troops over a larger area, and especially to send them far away from their base to hold a new line of weak defence beyond the mountains. The whole of this policy of bluster and annexation is piling fresh responsibilities on the Empire. We are pledged to defend Asia Minor if Russia attacks it; and we have thus given Russia a chance of going to war with us just at any moment she may choose. We are now going to give her another similar opportunity in Central Asia. This policy of widening our borders instead of consolidating our rule, of acquiring new territorial responsibilities in place of putting our actual possessions in a position of secure prosperity, is sure to bring trouble in the future. It may seem like a spirited foreign policy to ignorant and careless readers of the Ministerial papers, but it is mortgaging our future prosperity for the sake of a temporary party success. There is no fear that the people will be permanently misled by these demagogic pretences. There are signs on all hands that the political intelligence of the country is on its guard against them. But it may be some time before the constituencies have an opportunity of giving the British Empire statesmen instead of pretenders to rule over it; and meanwhile damage may be done which a generation of wise government cannot efface.

PRINCE BISMARCK.

THE fertile correspondent of the *Times* at Paris made up for the dearth of stirring news the other day by some notes of his interview with the accomplished Dr. Virchow of Berlin about the time of the Berlin Congress. A considerable part of the communication, which we have quoted elsewhere, consists of a description of the home life of Prince Bismarck, and of the eminent German professor's estimate of the political views and actions of his illustrious countryman. Both are well worthy of perusal, as enabling us to form a clearer conception of the foremost statesman of the day, and correcting some prevalent misconceptions concerning him.

In his own family Prince Bismarck seems to be a true patriarch, beloved by all around him, by whom he is "treated as a demigod, and cared for as an infant." The glimpse we get of the happiness of his domestic life, of the devotion of his children, and of the facility with which the stern statesman unbends in private life, and enjoys the tender devotion of his family, is exceedingly pleasant, though not easy to reconcile with his world-wide reputation for inflexible resolution, bordering upon what is harsh, unfeeling, and unscrupulous. The man of "blood and iron" seems to be able to doff his harder nature at the threshold of his dwelling, and to become like a little child amongst his own children. Something of this surprising idiosyncrasy may be set down to those traditions of family life which are one of the most pleasing characteristics of the Teutonic life. It can hardly be believed, however, that such simplicity and reality generally mark the domestic experiences of German nobles and high officials. Amongst them are to be found in rank luxu-

riance that feudal spirit, snobbish demeanour, cringing servility towards their betters, and craving for unhealthy excitement, which are so conspicuously absent in Prince Bismarck. At all events, the Chancellor's public career needs to be interpreted by the private qualities which come into play when he finds repose in the bosom of the family: and as we read of his singular frankness, his profound reverence for religion, his anxiety to uphold a high standard of morality, and his contempt for worldly honours and vanities, we are glad to think that these tendencies are consistent with his home life, and that the great and somewhat forbidding German statesman does not in these matters wear a mask.

But there is, alas! another side to the picture. With all his admiration of Prince Bismarck, Dr. Virchow is not blind to his grave defects as a national leader. As a diplomatist he is matchless; as a domestic statesman, imperious and short-sighted. The time has now come when his qualities as a German Minister will be severely tested, and when it will appear whether he is equal to the task of steering the bark of the German Fatherland into the haven of security and prosperity. On this point the remarks of the Berlin professor are candid and sagacious. The Prince's policy is, after all, says Dr. Virchow, not German, but Bismarckian. He is a great but not a beneficent personality. "He creates a policy of which he is the principal aim, and that is why we do not know whither he will lead us. Now, when a man pursues a goal beyond himself he has a far-sighted policy; but when he pursues a personal policy he lives from hand-to-mouth, and changes his projects according to his own convenience. Bismarck has given us glory, but he has deprived us of liberty without giving us prosperity. He is a man who knows Europe, but does not know Germany. He treats us as if he had conquered us. He does not consider our legitimate pride, or understand that we are as much interested as himself in our country's politics. He has coquetted with all parties and deserted all." Such is the candid and unfavourable estimate of Prince Bismarck's public life by a German Liberal who would fain be his ardent disciple. If Dr. Virchow's views approach correctness, the political prospects of Germany are gloomy. They confirm the suspicion that Prince Bismarck has no real faith in constitutional Government, and that personal ambition rather than trust in his countrymen is the guiding principle of his public policy. The Chancellor may have made Germany a nation, but he seems to be quite incapable of guiding it into the path which leads to strength, stability, and greatness.

Prince Bismarck's plan of Government is after all but a vulgar expedient. Force is his political, as it is his international idol. He proposes, instead of removing the deep-seated causes of national discontent and distress, to gag Socialism by legal enactment—not at all sorry apparently if, by that policy, he restricts the free utterance of opinion generally. The military ideas which, by a conjuncture of circumstances, have raised his country to the position of a first-rate Power in Europe, are to be imported into civil life; and we fear it is because the German Liberals deprecate this coercive policy that they have become the special objects of Prince Bismarck's antipathy. In this idiosyncrasy there is a singular lack of foresight. In maintaining the military supremacy of his country, Prince Bismarck is a fanatic. But he does not seem to have the patience to await her progressive development, or the ordinary prudence to prepare for it; and we fear that Dr. Virchow is only too accurate when he speaks of the inability of the Prince to give effect to a policy which will render Germany "freer or happier." "We do not," says the Berlin professor, "want a man who overthrows us every time we attempt to resist him." Nor is it good for the Fatherland that its Parliament should be invariably coerced into submission to the imperious will of a man wrapped up in the idea of his own infallibility. We would fain hope that while he is sternly carrying out a

national policy, the results of which are seen in the paralysis of industry, the heavy burden of taxation, and that popular discontent and suffering which is the seed-pot of Communistic ideas, the Germans are being trained in a spirit of self-reliance which will have freer development when Prince Bismarck leaves the stage. They are at present paying a heavy price for his ascendancy. It can hardly be expected that the veteran statesman will modify his views, or prepare for a new and better era. By breaking with the National Liberals, and throwing himself into the arms of the Junkers and Ultramontanes, it is yet in his power, we fear, to undo a great part of his life-work, and bring Germany to the verge of revolution. And it would be rash to predict that so headstrong a man and self-sufficient a statesman will stop short of such a disastrous issue.

WORK AND PAY IN THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH.

HAD the Rev. Brooke Lambert resigned the vicarage of Tamworth, as many other clergymen have resigned their incumbencies, without making the reason public, the fact would have attracted no attention beyond the circle of his personal friends and admirers. But he has circulated among his parishioners what the *Times*—in some respects correctly—describes as "a remarkable address," and it is a document which even the optimists of the Establishment cannot ignore.

The facts of the case are simple enough. Mr. Lambert has been for some years Vicar of Tamworth, which has a population of 8,000, and a large and fine church, and it does not appear either that he wishes to leave his congregation, or that his congregation wished him to do so. Probably he occupied a position which, in the eyes of unbefitted clergymen and of the uninformed public, seemed altogether satisfactory, if not enviable. But all the time he has been Vicar of Tamworth, Mr. Lambert has been receiving the paltry income of £135; and if, as is likely, he has been paying the salary of a curate, he has, in fact, been serving his parishioners for nothing. The State, which has the endowments of the Church at its disposal, practically left him to starve, and the people to whom he ministered appear not to have considered it their duty to do what the State had left undone. But he happened to have private means, and so was independent of what, in his case, was fictionally designated his "living." The Episcopalians of Tamworth have enjoyed what many Churchmen regard as the inestimable blessing of religious ministrations which cost them nothing, and they would probably have continued to do so without question as long as their vicar was willing to serve them on such terms. Mr. Lambert, however, has, from family circumstances, suffered a diminution of income, and so is obliged, not only to give up his vicarage, but to abandon clerical work, in order that he may obtain the means of subsistence which he now lacks.

We do not know what were Mr. Lambert's previous views in regard to the anomalous and discreditable system which has made this step necessary—whether his feelings of self-respect were ever wounded by it, or he had any consciousness of the mischief done to those to whom he sustained the pastoral relationship; or whether he thought—as many "Church defenders" do—that it is a fine thing, rather than otherwise, that clergymen of fortune should bring their capital into the Church, instead of the Church honourably and liberally sustaining those who spend themselves, and are spent, in its service.

We know Mr. Lambert's mind now, in regard to at least some features of the system of which he has become a victim. "I belong," he says—To a profession which, strangely enough, seems as a rule to reward those who belong to it in an inverse ratio to their work. The livings on which a man can live at all comfortably are those where the number of sovereigns a man receives per annum are double the number of souls under his care. There are a few plums in the profession, but it is an absolute fact that most of the highest posts in the Church require an independent income to enable a man to assume them. Looking,

therefore, to one's prospects, they seem to depend on the accident of obtaining one or two posts which could be counted on the fingers or of accepting what I would never accept even if there were a chance of its being offered me—a large living with little work.

Curiously enough, just when this outspoken address is published, the *Guardian* makes the following statement respecting "the few plums in the profession" to which the Vicar of Tamworth refers:—

There are, it appears from *Crockford's Clergy List*, 287 livings of 1,000*l.* a year and above—thirty-seven of 1,000*l.* a year, 185 between 1,000*l.* and 1,500*l.*, forty-three between 1,500*l.* and 2,000*l.*, three of 2,000*l.*, thirteen between 2,000*l.* and 3,000*l.*, one of 3,000*l.*, one 3,058*l.*, and one 3,500*l.* The last three livings are Hawarden (Chester), Upwell (Norwich), and Halsall (Chester). The majority are country parishes with small populations, but there are several churches in London and other large towns with large populations included.

These facts have always been notorious; but they have exerted so little influence on the minds of the supporters of the Establishment that even the *Spectator* thinks Mr. Lambert's description of the normal condition of things in the Church of England "startling," and, as though the matter were altogether novel, invites those who, like itself, are friendly to the Establishment to consider the effect of so great a scandal. Our contemporary points out that in every profession but the ecclesiastical profession "there is some rough proportion maintained between work and pay"; the hardships inflicted usually consisting in giving the posts which involve most work, as well as most pay, to the less rather than to the most qualified men. It further remarks that, even if all presentations to benefices went strictly by merit, the only result would be that "as soon as a man had proved himself a good worker he would be promoted, not as in any other profession, to a post where the work, as well as the pay, would be greater, but to a post in which, while the pay would be greater, the work would be less." "If the income of the Church of England is regarded from the point of view of the relationship between work and pay, there never was so gigantic a waste of money."

If clerical incomes were equalised to the extent that Episcopal incomes have been in recent years, pay and work would go together, and then, the *Spectator* thinks, "private liberality might be trusted to fill up what was lacking." But it is candidly admitted that such a redistribution as is needed is "the merest vision,"—

Historical difficulties, legal difficulties, difficulties connected with patronage, difficulties arising out of vested interests, would all stand in the way. It would need a popular impulse of the strongest kind to carry an ecclesiastical reform bill of this magnitude, and, to all appearance, if ever any strong popular impulse is felt upon Church matters, it will point in a very different direction from reform.

That this conclusion is a sound one few intelligent politicians will doubt; but, if so, of what use is it for the *Spectator* to tell Churchmen that, "though a reform of this nature may be an impossibility, the want of such a reform is a continual and growing scandal"; and that "the defenders of the Establishment have no right to count themselves strong so long as they are forced to acquiesce in the existence of a vast abuse"? Is our contemporary—who is one of the defenders of the Establishment—only thinking aloud; or, convinced by the logic of facts, is he coming, however reluctantly, to the further conclusion that the only remedy for the state of things so faithfully described is disestablishment? In either case the closing passage of the *Spectator's* article is as weighty as it is significant:—

What is wanted, we repeat, is a thorough redistribution of work and pay in the Church—such a redistribution, in fact, as necessity would effect in the event of the Church being disestablished, and such as, if the Conservatives were really lovers of the Established Church, they would attempt to effect in anticipation, and perhaps in preterition, of disestablishment. Whenever disestablishment becomes a practical question, such cases as that of Mr. Lambert will not be forgotten by the adversary, and, well used, they are likely to have a great effect in discussion. There is no conceivable scheme of disestablishment under which Mr. Brooke Lambert would have had to resign the living of Tamworth for the reasons which have forced him to do so while the Church is established.

Yes! and when disestablishment has actually taken place, and Churchmen lose the prop of State-endowments, and learn to stand erect—self-reliant, as well as free, it will then be discovered that in the hearty recognition of the Scriptural principle that they who receive spiritual benefits at the hands of Christian

pastors should give to them freely of their temporal things, the Church of England has opened a spring, not only of pecuniary, but of moral wealth, which will make her stronger and richer than she has ever been since she accepted the largesses and the patronage of the State.

CLEOPATRA'S NEEDLE.

On Thursday last Cleopatra's Needle found a resting-place on the Thames Embankment. After weary months of anxiety to antiquaries, after taxing the skill of the engineer, being buffeted by winds and tossed by angry seas, becoming the prey of salvage hunters, and the occasion of one or two untimely deaths, the mighty monolith has been safely placed erect on the Boulevard of the British metropolis. It has been an undertaking of no mean order; and the credit and praise are due to Mr. Erasmus Wilson and Mr. Dixon for their pecuniary outlay, public spirit, and archaeological enthusiasm. It has involved an expenditure of some fifteen thousand pounds, of which Mr. Wilson has contributed two-thirds—the ten thousand pounds he originally offered as a premium to anyone who would accomplish the task—and Mr. Dixon the balance. But to the latter we are also indebted for the talent which achieved success under discouraging circumstances. A less earnest and persevering man would have left his Egyptian spoil on the Castilian soil after the misadventure in the Bay of Biscay, on finding both the tempest and his Scottish compatriots pitted against him; but Mr. Dixon had put his hand to the plough and it was not for him to look back. Fifteen thousand pounds is a large sum of money; but it is a mere trifle when compared with the outlay incidental to the removal from Egypt of the Obelisk of Luxor, which now graces the Place de la Concorde in Paris, which amounted to over eighty thousand pounds. And in the expenditure of time and labour, too, the English engineer has shown his pre-eminence over his French brethren. They essayed in 1831 to remove the treasure, which Mehemet Ali had presented to them, as he did the Needle to us; but it was not until the year 1836 that it was reared on the great square between the gardens of the Tuileries and the Champs Elysées. The Cleopatra obelisk was, as we have said, on Thursday last, turned with the ease and security of a beautiful machine from its horizontal position and raised erect—a proud monument of ancient glory and modern enterprise.

A thousand half-obliterated images of time and place and people of a mystic, if not a mythic age, will crowd upon the mind and imagination of the gentle "Elias" of this generation who pass the sunset hour reclining on the benches which the First Lord of the Admiralty has placed for their accommodation along the Embankment; and as they turn their faces towards the monolith of Thothmes the Third, by whom it was erected at the gate of the Temple of Horus, the Sun God, a host of reflections will occur to them of familiar stories in the sacred writings. It was in that temple, possibly, that Moses was educated, and learned from the cunning priests something of astrology perhaps, and certainly acquired the now lost art of making gold mixable with water. Before Moses this very stone may have witnessed the advent of the sorrowing Jacob, the enslaved Joseph, and the timid Abraham, King of Damascus. The work of the pious Thothmes, the stone afterwards became the record of the conquests of his mighty successor, Rameses the Great, the reputed oppressor of the people of Israel. The Egypt of that day was made up of anomalies. Its wars, which Rameses—the Napoleon of his time—carried into Asia and to the borders of the Black Sea, were occasioned perhaps as much by a surfeit of labour as by a thirst for glory. The region of the Nile was one in which life was easy, and therefore indolent to free men. Nature was prodigal, and nourished man with but a trifling demand upon his labour; and so, with no idea of emigration and no commercial and industrial relations, the only outlet for surplus population was in the enterprise of war. Strange, too, that besides being a land of popular leisure, it was a land of religious art. Its designs in hieroglyph were limited by strict rules, enacted and enforced by a powerful hierarchy, but the deeply-incised monoliths which remain, and the bright colouring of mummy envelopments, indicate the manual dexterity and excellence to which her artists had attained. Cleopatra's Needle is a monument of Egyptian art and of that prodigality of life which was the result, probably, as much of their religious beliefs as of the exigencies of a hungry and teeming population. Of them it may be

said that the beautiful theory of immortality, of which the scarab was the emblem—first the crawling thing and then the winged creature of light—had laid such hold upon the popular mind that it had degenerated into a vice, and the duty-bearing present was lost in the purgatorial hereafter. Little wonder that when that lad, said to have been taught in the Temple of Thothmes, grew up to be a leader and a law-giver, his message from the God of Abraham was the promise of length of days and material prosperity. It was high time that the world should be delivered from living in the future; and therefore it was that the Jews were deprived of the theory of any immortality at all until about the time when Christ came, and men could understand that the life which now is is the one of duty, the life hereafter the one of rest. The plebeian Egyptian lived in a dreamy future: and so he stirred himself for nothing except to respond with fatalistic alacrity to the demands of the warrior Pharaohs, who led their vast armies over Arabia, into Asia, and even to the shores of the Bosphorus. Rameses was religious in his way and a missionary. The Egyptian theology was fairly formulated in his time; and the worship of Horus was so pre-eminently desirable in his esteem that he propagated it wherever he went; and in remote places from Northern Africa, in Persia, and the rest, traces of the Egyptian religion can be discerned in sun, moon, and fire worship. Dim lights, "broadening into boundless day," seem to radiate the monument before us. The civilisation of Egypt, the birth of the Theocracy, the advent of Christ, the flight into Egypt, and the civilisation of this nineteenth century may be said to converge in that one stone! The monument which, perchance, was often brushed by the tunic worn by the boy Moses—might it not also have looked down upon the humble carpenter, who with his wife and child fled from the mad fury of Herod of Judea?

It will probably be six weeks before the monolith will be free of unsightly scaffolding; for when the present elaborate apparatus has been removed, another and a lighter one will be erected for the use of Mr. Bullen and his artisans, who, under the direction of Major Festing, on behalf of the Department of Science and Art, will complete the moulds, from which a cast will be made for erection at South Kensington and, we venture to hope, at other Art Museums. When all is clear, the novelty will be presented of the artisans' work of more than three thousand years ago reared on the wrought masonry of to-day. The artistic youths who, passing along the Embankment, trace the symbols and emblems of the dead hand, even though with a mere transient glance, may receive an inspiration which will make them nonetheless skilful in design, learned in antiquities, and pure in imagination; and the designers and antiquaries of the generations to come will bless the names of those who have brought the traditions of Egypt within reach of the humblest artisan who attends an English school of science and design.

HOLIDAY SKETCHES.

THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

The *Exposition Universelle*, now approaching the last month of its existence, will surely be remembered in history as one of the most wonderful illustrations ever afforded of the energy, vitality, and power of recuperation characteristic of the French people. Even yet the time is hardly come for estimating the success of this great undertaking from a financial point of view. But there seems little reason to doubt that all expenses will be paid; and, judging from the rate of admissions, which cannot have been far short of a hundred thousand on a daily average, there ought to be a considerable surplus left. This alone will be a great triumph for the enterprising spirit of the nation. But of course this sort of success is chiefly valuable in the present instance because it implies other victories of a much higher order. The Exhibition itself is but one among many brilliant results of the nation's victory over itself. Seven years ago, Paris, agonised by conquest and capture at the hands of a foreign foe, tortured and scorched by the fires of internal dissension, was an object of painful pity to the whole world. Many of her palaces and historic monuments lay in ruins, and thousands of her citizens were in prison charged with hideous treason. The nation, of which Paris is at once head and heart, soul and eye and ear, was so wounded and crushed by the penalties of a disastrous war, that onlookers, not aware of its resources, imagined a full half-century must elapse before France could be itself again. Nay, never in all coming time was its boasted supremacy over European civilisation to be regained. The Germans, who had only lacked union, were supposed to have

finally acceded to their rightful place as the foremost race of Europe, and the danger of the future was imagined to lie in their indisputable military supremacy.

We are far from saying that this forecast was wholly groundless. But much has happened since then to modify prophetic views. And at this moment the contrast between Berlin and Paris is such that its prediction in 1871 would have been enough to convict anyone of enthusiasm or lunacy. The German Empire is paying the penalties of victory. The French nation is reaping the fruits of defeat. We say the French nation—for the French Republic has never known defeat. The capture of Paris, though it happened after the proclamation of the Republic, was, of course, the direct issue of an Imperial policy. And though the word republic means something very different on the other side of the Channel from what it does in England and America, yet their own curious interpretation of republicanism seems for the present to suit the genius of the French. It has exceeded the anticipations of M. Thiers. It has not only "separated them least;" it has, for the present at any rate, reduced faction to insignificance and welded the whole people into one. On the other hand, an "Imperial" policy is producing in Germany its usual fruits of self-willed intolerance on the one hand and factious passion on the other, embittered by suppression. The French have a great deal to learn before they understand liberty in the Anglo-Saxon sense of the word. But, at all events, they are for the present moving in the right direction. In Germany, on the other hand, the curse of militarism and Imperialism is begetting a disgraceful retrogression towards the worst evils of despotism.

It is the fashion with a certain section of our own countrymen, notably with those whose material circumstances are extremely comfortable, to cry down as vulgar materialism the policy of preferring internal development to foreign glory. But the Paris Exhibition is a signal illustration of the truth that a nation's real weight in the world must needs be very closely dependent, first on its natural resources, and next on an industrious use of them. Neither of the previous international exhibitions can be compared with the present one either in conception or organisation; and the prodigious energy of which it is the expression has clearly been nursed and nerved by the terrible calamities that drove the nation in upon itself, and compelled it for a time at least to abandon the phantom of military fame. The visitor to the Exhibition sees many proofs of that energy before he reaches the Champs de Mars. The ruins of the Tuileries still gape hollow-eyed and corpse-like upon the gay world around; and the forest of scaffolding around the slowly rising walls of the Hôtel de Ville shows what years of thrift and labour may be needed to repair the mischief of a moment's passion. But otherwise there is hardly any trace left of the devastation wrought by the fanatics of the Commune. On the contrary, new palaces, new hotels, restored churches, completed streets, fresh magnificence on every side, suggest some very salutary reflections on the power possessed by a nation of industrious peasants. It is true that these new splendours must represent an enormous amount of debt. But the money is forthcoming because there is confidence; and confidence could not exist without a national consciousness of power—a consciousness more healthy far, and far less likely to be shaken, when it depends on industry and enterprise and thrift, than when it springs from the intoxication of war.

But, after all, it is the Exposition itself that most impresses the stranger with the resources, the energy, and the power of France. Nor is it only qualities of force that are suggested, but several specialities of the French nature are strikingly exemplified. The arrangement of the plan is a triumph of organisation. Extending from the Ecole Militaire, passing across the river, and covering a great part of the Trocadero, the area enclosed is probably more than a square mile. But the arrangement of the various parts is so clear, logical, and simple, that after a brief inspection of the plan a visitor of ordinary intelligence would know where to look for anything. Nor has the national susceptibility to scenic effects been neglected. Internally there is, indeed, nothing to rival the sudden surprise which on our first entry to the Crystal Palace of 1851 set one's brain in a whirl, and is said to have excited at least one man to madness. That is a sensation which can scarcely be repeated. Nevertheless the present Exhibition has some points of view with which nothing seen in London or anywhere else can compete. From the semi-circular gallery of the Salle des Fêtes, on

the summit of the Trocadero, or still better from one of its towers, the *coup d'œil* is such as can never be forgotten. The Seine, meandering amongst its palaces, spanned by its noble bridges, comes sweeping from the left, its green and sunny water churned by many a little steamer puffing to or from the Exhibition; and the eye, running up and down its banks, wonders at the lordly spaciousness of the Champs Elysées and the Place de la Concorde, and the endless ranges of stately buildings that line the miles of streets beyond. There on its ancient island Notre Dame lifts its fretted towers, the witnesses of age-long revolution, but furbished up to look almost as fresh as the brand new buildings about them. There too the Palais de Justice, almost dividing with the cathedral the narrow limits of their ancient domain, show how law and religion allied, though not identical, have guarded the cradle of civilisation. Along the opposite side of the river, behind the stretching quays of polished masonry, domes, and towers like the Pantheon, St. Germain, L'Auxerrois, and the gilded Invalides, rise from the busy haunts of hand and brain work, through which the long, leafy boulevard pours a river of fresh air. To the right, from this point of view, the fortifications which served only to prolong the agony of Paris, look now like slopes of grass piled up for children's play. And, beyond, the river sweeps away to where its waves are lost in billows of foliage, running up to the heights from which German shot and shell hailed down less than eight years ago. In such a landscape the prospect immediately below finds a fitting frame; the fruits of a world's civilisation ripening between commerce, learning, and art on the one hand, with agriculture on the other, while war, like a drunk volcano, wears the mask of peace.

Below our feet, but above the ground, indeed from the first floor of the building itself, there issues forth a broad stream of water that falls in a roaring cataract over a curved balcony, and then down, step after step, to a pool where fountains spout aloft, and gilded figures of beasts, life-size, pose in vigorous attitudes, adding animation to the scene. Pavilions and statuary amidst freshly-watered lawns, where not a dead blade or an obtrusive weed is to be seen, lead down to the river side, across which the Pont d'Jena, raised and adorned, connects these forecourts with the main body of the Exhibition. More pavilions and statuary, more lawns and fountains, bring us up to the terrace from which the principal buildings open. In the hall that stretches along this terrace, forming the vestibule to the various sections, the most splendid productions of Sèvres china and Gobelins tapestry face the French sections, while works of Indian art, principally from the collections of the Prince of Wales, front the English section. A similar arrangement is, as nearly as possible, carried throughout. Longitudinal lines of division separate the classes of objects or productions, while transverse lines of division separate the nationalities. Thus, a central range of pavilions is devoted to a gallery of the fine arts; and transversely this is divided into sections representing France, England, Italy, and other countries. Across the longitudinal dividing avenue, English books and educational apparatus are found, ranging with English pictures, and, further again to the right, English manufactures. Or, if anyone wishes to study the educational apparatus of several nations, he will find them approximate one to another in the longitudinal arrangement, while separated transversely. One most pleasing feature associated with this arrangement is the "Rue des Nations," an avenue lined on one side with architectural façades representing the various styles of building affected by the nations whose sections abut on the avenue. A house-front in the "Queen Anne style" of course is inevitable in the English section, but there is also a beautiful model of an old English wooden house, which almost makes one regret that timber is now so scarce and bricks so plentiful. Russia, Portugal, and Holland are also well represented. The result is a very quaint and interesting perspective.

It is remarkable how rich is the collection of educational apparatus sent by some countries, and generally, with one signal exception, in proportion to their position in the march of civilisation. The exception is that of our own country. The United States sent over ample materials for a complete study of their whole system of schools and methods of teaching. France, Switzerland, Holland, and Belgium have shown almost equal attention to this subject. But were it not for the School Board map of London, somewhat conspicuously exhibited, a stranger might suppose that popular education is with us a very secondary matter indeed. The

reason is that in our country all contributions to such exhibitions are left to private enterprise. Thus manufacturers and others, who hope to make a profit by it, send their goods. But school boards—and, indeed, under the present centralised system, most other local municipal bodies—have no power to spend money for any such purpose; and the Government, rightly or wrongly, is not so lavish of the taxpayers' money for these objects as it is for guns and torpedoes. The result is to be regretted, whatever be the cause. But the care with which foreign educational exhibitions have been organised, and the conspicuous positions assigned to them, are significant of the better tendencies of the age. Not far from one of the entrances is a light-house tower, with a revolving light and electric lantern—a conspicuous object after the sun is gone down. The long beams of light, that range far across the sky, turn round like the unsubstantial spokes of some ghastly wheel; and whatever they touch with their varied colours as they pass, emerges from dim obscurity into a dazzling radiance, that for a moment fixes the eye. As the visitor looks up, he sees multitudinous sparks that play amongst the rays, and throng thicker and thicker towards the central core of light. What they are at first he cannot think; for the electric ray does not shake off sparks like a sputtering candle. Then suddenly it occurs to him that these glittering atoms are innumerable insects; flies, and moths, and "daddies," drawn out of the infinite darkness into this happy splendour, and luxuriating safely in a lambent gleam, that threatens them with no fiery death. Surely our lively neighbours have for once turned mystics, and erected there a prophetic symbol. For the rays of knowledge that revolve round the world from enterprises like this discover new interests in the life of men undiscerned before. And it is the nameless hordes, swarming in darkness, upon whom the best blessings of such centres of light are ultimately shed.

The *Leeds Mercury* states that Mr. Thomas Nicholson, a gentleman well known and highly respected in the district, died at the village of Hawkswell, near Richmond, Yorkshire, on Monday, having reached the age of 101 years.

RITUALISM AND DISESTABLISHMENT.—Some men aver that the only way to get rid of Romanism is to begin with disestablishment; and certainly so far all efforts even to stop the progress of the pollution have been abortive. Most of the bishops are sincere Protestants, but they are powerless. Their admonitions are treated as idle wind, and their written remonstrances are utterly disregarded. Parliament has vainly intervened. The Ritualistic clergy lampoon and vilify the judge of the court established to check Ritualistic mummeries, and his judgments and orders are derided and disobeyed. The Ecclesiastical Courts and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council are equally ignored. When that infamous manual, "The Priest in Absolution," was brought to the notice of the public there ensued a general cry of indignation. In Parliament and out of Parliament there was an angry protest against the practice of auricular confession in the Church of England. But nothing has been done. The members of the Society of the Holy Cross, who use the foul manual, still hold their appointments. The confessional-boxes are still in Church of England churches. The wives and daughters of English Churchmen are still exhorted to auricular confession. All the mummeries of Rome are still to be seen in Church of England churches, and Romish doctrines are preached. The laity appear to be powerless. We read in the *City Press* of Sept. 7 an account of a meeting of the Vestry of St. Ethelburga, a church in the City of London. The rector, the Rev. J. M. Rodwell, read a petition that he had presented to "the Worshipful Thomas Hutchinson Tristram, Doctor of Laws, Vicar-General of the Right Rev. Father in God John, by divine presumption Lord Bishop of London, &c." The object of the petition was to obtain a licence or faculty to place a pair of candlesticks with candles upon "the retable of the Lord's Table"; to place a cross of wood or other substantial material upon the east wall over the Lord's Table, as an architectural ornament; and to put hangings of coloured stuffs or textile fabrics behind the said Lord's Table. The vestrymen emphatically objected to this Ritualistic movement. Mr. Rodwell treated them with insolent and stinging contempt. A resolution refusing to consider the rector's application for a faculty was passed unanimously, and Mr. Rodwell said, "You can take your course and I will take mine." Mr. Norris asked him why he was going on in such a Roman Catholic way, and what he wanted with candles. Mr. Rodwell said, "The City of London, as you must know, is dark and crowded, and artificial lights are necessary," a reply that may be fairly described as a Jesuitical fencing with truth spiced with an impudent sneer. Will the Ritualists be permitted to still defy Parliament and the courts, the bishops and the laity of the Church of England? If so, if the Church of England is to continue a hotbed of Romanism, she must cease to be the State Church of a Protestant nation.—*Weekly Review* (Presbyterian).

Literature.

DR. KIDD ON THERAPEUTICS.*

We are glad to receive from Dr. Kidd an epitome of the conclusions he has arrived at as to the best methods of treating disease. His experience has been large—he has had the singular advantage of gaining a good practical insight into a great variety of schools. He has been, and still is, to a great extent identified with the homœopathic branch of physicians, but he is also perfectly familiar with all the resources that allopathy can offer. But these two extreme and antagonistic sections do not exhaust the growing grounds of his therapeutics. Dr. Kidd does not attach himself restrictively to any school; he endeavours to use all that is serviceable in all schools, and may, therefore, be regarded as an eclectic in medicine. The book before us gives his conception of what a medical man should be, and describes the ideal at which he himself aims. The physician, according to his idea, is not merely an administrator of drugs; and when he does use drugs, he may employ them either curatively or palliatively—in the one case he appeals to their individual specific qualities, in the other case to their physiological and more generic properties.

But, besides giving drugs, there are many more or less useful things that a physician may do for his patient. He may listen to the teachings of professors of galvanic treatment; he may accept the assistance of hydropathy; he may use all the hints that physiology, chemistry, and the various branches of sanitary science supply. He can, therefore, enter into all the details of medical practice which do not primarily belong to merely medical art, but are matters for general supervision by the physician and for minute application by the nurse. He is quite at home in every corner of the sick room, and not merely at the bedside, and he is ready and competent to become *generalissimo* of the kitchen, and to give cook a wrinkle or two for which she may be very thankful. And these particulars do not exhaust the range of his control. Like a thoroughly competent field-marshal, he can look into all the details of the army he commands. He has a word for the butcher and poulterer and fishmonger, he has his eye on the wine-merchant, and he has come to conclusions with the architect and sanitary constructor, and they are liable to instant arrest if there is anything in air, earth, or water that is likely to interfere, or that fails actively to co-operate with, his therapeutic aims. Then, again, he has information about all sorts of climates, soils, residences—he knows whom he shall send to Harrogate, whom to Matlock, whom to Kissingen, whom to the summit of Mont Blanc. He will tell his patient almost the street he had better live in, and the side of it, and whether he had better come to town on foot or on a bicycle, or in a gig or by rail. Besides all this, he knows a thing or two in surgery. If anything big is to be done, he can select the most qualified specialist to do it, and this is no mean qualification for a medical man. But without summoning special experts, he can pick out what he wants from the surgical instrument maker's store, suggest adaptations to the particular cases he has to treat, and thus bring all the resources of mechanical art to the succour of those fleshly ills which are within arm's reach, and are capable of being remedied by external agencies.

Perhaps in thus enlarging on the qualifications which Dr. Kidd tells us, directly or indirectly, are those which he seeks to realise in his own practice, we have gone a little beyond the book that lies before us, and inferred more than we are told. We are describing an ideal physician of the Kiddian type, rather than Dr. Kidd himself. Still, those who know Dr. Kidd will recognise in our hasty outline a fair portrait of himself.

Now obviously this is a noble and useful career for any man to pursue. There is scope here for all the faculties of the finest minds—for all the powers of varied observation, keen inductive philosophy, wise and sagacious practical wisdom, deep and penetrating thought, that the noblest intellect can bring. The danger is perhaps lest the array of instruments displayed should frighten those who are apt to think that some sort of limitation is necessary in order that any craftsman may excel in his particular craft, and that it is dangerous, in a serious calling, to be too nimble. The eclectic physician requires as many eyes as the late lamented Professor Argus, and as many hands as Dr. Briareus, and in the correlation

* *The Laws of Therapeutics; or, the Science and Art of Medicine. A Sketch by JOSEPH KIDD, M.D.* (London: C. Kegan Paul and Co. 1878.)

of medical sciences it will, perhaps, be discovered that a skilled practitioner of this type must pass through many years' training and several independent apprenticeships. It must inevitably be the case that any one whose conception of medical art is of this complex and comprehensive kind is likely to develop one or more sides of his professional *civitas* in a disproportionate degree, and other sides are apt to become correspondingly dwarfed. The Colossus has not yet appeared who can stride with equal mastery over all the varied streams of knowledge and experience that converge to the oceanic abyss of medical practice when its ideal is thus expanded. Now we wish, very deferentially and respectfully of course, to express our impression that Dr. Kidd's weak side is exactly that which he professes, by the title of his book, to treat, *i.e.*, not therapeutics, but the laws of therapeutics. So far as his practice is concerned we are not at all disposed to criticise it—that is not our function or our province in these columns. But when we are invited to consider the laws of therapeutics we are led to expect some judicial discrimination that shall help us to discern the laws of nature, according to which diseases are healed. In a rough and general sense anything that a medical man or a nurse does that helps the patient to recover may be taken as a part of therapeutics. But it is convenient to take separate cognisance of surgery, hygiene, dietetic rules, hydropathy, galvanism, convalescent retreats, healing waters and baths, &c. Laws of therapeutics may be enunciated with reference to any of these varieties of practice, but the most fundamental laws are those which refer to the specific action of medicines, and it is this class of laws that Dr. Kidd professes first of all to expound. Now, there is a widely-spread faith in human nature that every disease has its antidote if you can only find it; and by antidote we mean a drug that kills it by its specific action, not merely by perambulating among all the functions and secretions, and setting them to rights one by one as one or another comes uppermost. This last is physiological treatment. It may be very good, and doubtless when skilfully administered is so; but it is not specific treatment. Dr. Kidd tells us that there are at least two laws of nature, according to which remedies act specifically—the law of similars and the law of contraries. He gives instances of the first; but we really cannot find that he gives us any illustrations of the second, and it does not seem to us that he himself has any very strong persuasion of any law of specific action except the homœopathic. It is evidently extremely improbable that two opposite and antagonistic laws can both be true—one for one drug and another for another—or that any one drug can act specifically in two opposite ways. Dr. Kidd says that the bromides are used in epilepsy according to the law of contraries. Exactly so; but he does not give us any evidence or illustration of any cure being so effected. On the contrary, he tells us that in treating epilepsy by the bromides you must give large, almost poisonous doses; you must never relax your hold for a moment, or the work of months may be undone in a day or two; you must keep the patient under the full control of the drug till you are afraid to go any further—and even then you may fail to effect a cure. This is assuredly no illustration of specific curative action; it is very rough palliation, with a happy-go-lucky expectation of possible cure. Its best results only show that you may keep a disease at bay for a certain time by a powerful antagonism directed against leading symptoms, and that by good chance the patient may sometimes shake off the foe. Let anyone put this sort of treatment in contrast with Dr. Kidd's most interesting and instructive case of skin disease of many years' standing, cured in a few weeks by vaccination—the disease having been originally evoked by unhealthy vaccination. Here every step is orderly, calm, decided—there is steady progress without interruption till the cure is effected. Dr. Kidd may be proud of such a case as that; but if anyone looks through his book for similar triumphs arising from the administration of medicines selected on the principle of contraries, he will look in vain.

In one other matter we must take exception to Dr. Kidd's teaching. He denounces severely, and we think illiberally, those who give infinitesimal doses, and especially Hahnemann, as their exemplar and authority. We presume that he himself always gives appreciable and measurable doses. If he gives so small a dose as the thousandth of a grain of anything he is making dangerous concessions to mysticism or frivolity. Now, Dr. Kidd is an advocate of progress, and if there is one characteristic of medical progress in all branches of the profession more marked than any other, it is the tendency to

abolish the violent methods, the complicated "mixtures," the enormous doses of olden times. Old Physic is simple, and modest, and inoffensive now compared with what it was fifty or even thirty years ago. Part of this reform has been effected by the example of homœopathy—we need not determine what part of that example has done the work. But while we hear of epileptic patients being saturated with bromides, it is evident the work is not completed. Dr. Kidd's work is not to minimise the administration of medicine, nor to study laboriously all the fine and minute features of individual cases, which is the only avenue by which infinitesimal practice can be securely reached. He may, therefore, be very reasonably asked to leave other equally thoughtful searchers after medical truth to pursue their work in their own way without any flagellation from him. He ought to have so much sympathy with the hunted homœopathic hare as to refuse to join in any part of the hue-and-cry raised by the allopathic hounds. He certainly is not accurate when he says that infinitesimals have been tacitly given up by the most skilful and enlightened practitioners of homœopathy. Not a medical journal is published by the homœopaths of England or America that does not contain records of cases treated by infinitesimal doses; and when Dr. Kidd casts scorn on these he is cutting away the ground on which he himself stands, and in which he earned considerable credit in the earlier part of his career, and reviling those who are most earnestly seeking for new instruments for himself to employ.

The case of infinitesimals we take to be this. Dr. Kidd shows, not by his arguments as an expositor of medical philosophy, but by his case as a popular practitioner, that the infinitesimal plan has not yet established itself. The minute analysis of a case which this sort of practice requires is too laborious and slow for a busy practitioner whose waiting-rooms are crowded with patients. And yet it is not unreasonable to presume that as much time, patience, skill, and science are required to solve the medical equation between a disease and its specific remedy as are required in a traveller who seeks to ascertain the latitude and longitude of the place where he stands or sails. The helps which correspond to nautical tables that are to minimise this labour for the physician are not yet fully constructed, and the careful, studious medical investigators who are willing to use them are few and far between, and are likely to remain so. Meanwhile, it is less difficult to use the rough hints that lie on the surface of homœopathy, and fill up the gaps which the want of minute individualisation leaves by a liberal use of all sorts of miscellaneous hygienic appliances. We believe that there will be for a long time a wide divergence between these two methods of employing homœopathy, and there is room for improvement on both sides in the way in which the respective champions of each speak and think of the other. Dr. Kidd is an able representative of the eclectic side which is so much condemned by the stricter followers of Hahnemann. Still, his position as an eclectic postulates tolerance and liberality for all, and especially for those who are trying to make homœopathy an exact science of almost mathematical precision; and if they condemn him too severely, as we think they do, he need not follow their bad example and give railing for railing. It could scarcely cause him a pang of self-denial to expunge these few passages, and we trust his book will be purged of this blemish in any future edition.

Meanwhile those who wish to get a general comprehensive idea of the many-sided sagacity that a skilful medical man must use—a man who does not hold a brief against homœopathy, or any other pathy, but has his eyes open to all truth, howsoever it may present itself—may find much pleasing instruction in Dr. Kidd's volume.

MRS. BEECHER STOWE'S LAST STORY.*

Mrs. Beecher Stowe has here given a delightful record of New England village life at a most interesting period. Old people are still living who can recal the days when the King's authority was respected, and the royal family prayed for in the churches, and some of whom are staunch Royalists still—stiff, loyal, upright people, who do not lose their good manners or their self-command, and can afford to smile at what they deem the extravagances of the young generation around them, and are firm in the faith that the old days were the best. It is only natural, but it is at once highly characteristic of Mrs. Stowe and truly expressive of the real condition of matters, that everything should be made to circle round the conflicting

* *Pogonuc People: their Loves and Lives.* By HARRIET BEECHER STOWE, Author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," &c. (Sampson Low, Marston, and Co.)

interests of 'Piscopals and Presbyterians—the former being, of course, the interlopers here—with their efforts to introduce the Old England customs and ceremonies, while the noisy party-political interests are wrong-headedly made to range themselves in the quarrel. The people of Pogonuc are decidedly full of character. Each one has his own individuality—from the very argumentative Dr. Cushing, who preaches against the keeping of Christmas in the 'Piscopal Church, down to Hiel Jones, who drives the stage from Boston, and faithfully supports the parson, like a true Yankee, mixing his visits of courtship to Nabby, the pastor's maid, with designs to discover the contents of the pastor's Christmas parcel from Boston; from the dogmatic Deacon Dickenson to Zeph Higgins, whose nature is of the most refractory order, but who was driven into true shelter at the last; from old Mrs. Jones, who positively "enjoyed her poor health," to dear, delightful little Dolly, whose secret march from that solitary house across the snow to the brightly "luminated" church on Christmas Eve only foreshadows the place that she will by-and-by take when, grown a beautiful young woman, she captivates her English "cousin," Henry Dunbar, and shows how the amenities of Presbyterianism and 'Piscopatism can be united.

It will thus be seen that the record of the "Pogonuc People" is softened up by love. How else could it be? Mrs. Beecher Stowe is too good a story-teller not to take full tribute of the tender passion, though she does not label this fiction "a love story." The dry and truly Yankee way in which she presents Nabby, with all her wiles, readily surrendering all her heart to Hiel Jones, yet careful to let nobody know it—and least of all herself—till she is quite sure of him, is admirable. And that leghorn hat, and the holiday with Dolly in the woods, and the roundabout return, and the stopping by the stream, and the lingering there to be surprised—yes, surprised at the advent of Hiel and his team—and the delightful drive home in his company. It is in itself an idyll, with more ely knowledge of the human heart than is to be found in many idylls. And Mrs. Stowe has a masterly way of uniting fiction with analysis of motives, and of gradually unfolding the story through the agency of each. It would hardly be possible to present any outline of the story without spoiling the pleasure our readers will certainly have in its perusal. So we must content ourselves with a few little specimens, the effect of which must be to send them the more speedily to the book itself. Here is Hiel Jones's notion of Zeph Higgins, communicated to Job Peters as the two cronies sit waiting for the service to begin in that matter of the Christmas "luminations."

"I tell you Zeph's led the old deacon a dance. Zeph, ye see, is one o' them ropy, stringy fellers, jest like touchwood—once get 'em a burnin', and they keep on a burnin' night and day. Zeph really set up nights a batin' the deacon, and contrivin' what he could do agin him. Finally it comes into his head that the deacon got his water from a spring on one o' Zeph's high pastur' lots. The deacon had laid pipes himself, and brought it 'cross lots down to his house. Wal, wat does Zeph do, without sayin' a word to the deacon, but he takes up all the deacon's logs that carried the water 'cross his lot, and throwed 'em over the fence; and, fust the deacon's wife knowed, she hadn't a drop of water to wash or cook with, or drink, nor nothin'. Deacon had to get all her water carted in barrels. Wal, they went to law 'bout it, and 'tain't settled yet; but Zeph he took Squire Lewis for his lawyer—Squire Lewis, ye see, he's the great man to the 'Piscopal Church. Folks say he pretty much built this 'ere Church."

"Wal, now," said Job, after an interval of meditation, "I shouldn't think the 'Piscopals wouldn't get no great advantage from them sort o' fellers."

"That air's jest what I was a tellin' on 'em over to the store," said Hiel briskly. "Lordy massy, deacon," says I, "don't you worry. If them 'Piscopals has got Zeph Higgins in their camp—why, they've bit off more'n they can chew—that's all. They'll find it out one o' these days—see if they don't."

Now for something of a different order—the interesting close of that very interesting Saturday afternoon holiday of Dolly's, when she went for an outing with Nabby:—

After walking half a mile they came to a stone culverin, where a little brawling stream crossed the road. The edges of the brook were fringed with sweet flag blades waving in the afternoon light, and the water gurgled and trickled pleasantly among the stones.

"There, Dolly," said Nabby, seating herself on a flat stone by the brook, "I'm goin' to rest a minute, and you can find some of them sweet flag 'graters,' if you want." This was the blossom-bud of the sweet flag, which when young and tender was reckoned a delicacy among omnivorous children.

"Why, Nabby, I thought you were in such a hurry to get home," said Dolly, gathering the blades of sweet-flag and looking for the "graters."

"No need of hurry," said Nabby, "the sun's an hour and a-half high," and she leaned over the curb of the bridge and looked at herself in the brook. She took off her sun bonnet and fanned herself with it. Then she put a bright, spotted fir-lily in her hair and watched the effect in the water. It certainly was a brilliant picture, framed by the brown stones and green rushes of the brook.

"Oh, Nabby," cried Dolly, "look! There's the stage and Hiel coming down the hill!"

"Sure enough," said Nabby, in a tone of proper surprise, as if she had expected anything else to happen on that road at that time of the afternoon. "As true as I live and breathe, it is Hiel and the stage," she added, "and not a creature in it. Now we'll get a ride home."

Nabby's sun-bonnet hung on her arm, her hair fell in a tangle of curls around her flushed cheeks as she stood waiting for Hiel to come up. Altogether she was a picture.

That young man took in the points of the view at once, and vowed in his heart that Nabby was the handsomest girl upon his beat.

"Waitin' for me to come along?" he said, as he drew up.

"Well, you're sort o' handy now and then," said Nabby. "We've been huckleberrying all the afternoon, and we're tired."

Hiel got down and opened the stage door, and helped the two to get in with their berries and flowers.

"You owe me one for this," said Hiel, when he handed in Nabby's things.

"Well, there's one," said Nabby, laughing, and striking him across the eyes with her bunch of lilies.

"Never mind, miss. I shall keep the account," said Hiel; and he gathered up the reins, resumed his high seat, made his grand entrance into Poganuc, and drew up at the parson's door.

For a week thereafter it was anxiously discussed in various circles how Nabby and Dolly came to be in that stage. Where had they been? How did it happen? The obscurity of the event kept Hiel on the brain of several damsels who had nothing better to talk about.

And, after all, in spite of Nabby's flightiness and small perversities, we admire and respect her as a genuine Yankee maiden, and none the less, surely, when we learn how well she did by her father, when Zeph was lonely, irritable, and grieving over the loss of his wife, and how true a helpmeet she was to Hiel, and how well she brought up her child, which the mournful, fretful, over-inquisitive, and self-contradictory old Mrs. Jones did her very best to spoil, as grandmothers are wont to do.

Sometimes Mrs. Stowe is very happy in her general remarks, as this, for example, on the class to which Zeph Higgins before his conversion in the great revival too completely belonged:—

There is one class of luckless mortals in this world of ours whose sorrows, though often more real than those of other people, never bring them any sympathy. It is those in whom suffering excites an irritating conflict, which makes them intolerable to themselves and others. The more they suffer the more severe, biting, and bitter become their works and actions. The very sympathy they long for, by a strange contrariness of nature, they throw back on their friends as an injury. Nobody knows where to have them, or how to handle them, and when everybody steers away from them they are inwardly desolate at their loneliness.

Nor should we forget to note the aroma of Scripture figures and Scripture phrases so cunningly used, which now and then impart such an air of quaint reality to the dialogue.

On the whole, though this book is not so ambitious in scheme as some of Mrs. Stowe's stories, it realises very completely what it aims at, and is delightful for picture, character, and quaint dramatic remark. It is pleasantly readable; and one will carry away from it a very vivid picture of what New England village life, in all its varied aspects, really was more than half a century ago.

QUEEN POMARE.*

The Society and Georgian Islands in Polynesia are distant about eighty miles from each other. The principal Society Islands are Borabora, Tahiti, Raiatea, and Huahini. The Georgian group include Maiaciti, Eimeo, and Tahiti. Tahiti is the largest of these. It is about 100 miles in circumference, and has the usual features of volcanic islands in Polynesia—great beauty, lofty hills, and extreme fertility in some of its valleys. Eighty years ago there was not a Christian in the entire group, or anyone who could read or write. A cruel form of idolatry prevailed, which allowed of the utmost moral laxity; and though the people were less barbarous than some of their neighbours, falsehood, deceit, theft, and unchastity were universally prevalent. Now not a vestige of idolatry is to be seen. It is said that Louis Napoleon desired some of the gods of his new Tahitian subjects to be sent over to France to enrich one of the Paris museums and illustrate the far-reaching glory of his Empire, but on search being made not one could be found. The population was estimated by Captain Cook at 200,000—a most exaggerated number, which only shows how much more skillful he was as a navigator than as a statistician. Subsequently it was set down by Forster at 121,500, which seems not to have been a mere guess, and yet was far above the truth, even if we suppose there was subsequently, as in many Polynesian islands, a very rapid diminution of the inhabitants; for the missionaries, after living among the people, estimated the number at 25,000 and 18,000, whilst Mr. Pritchard puts it as low as 8,000.

Tahiti is known to Europeans chiefly by two

* *Queen Pomare and her Country.* By the Rev. GEORGE PRITCHARD. (London: Elliot Stock.)

events greatly differing from each other. The first band of missionaries sent out by the London Missionary Society made it the scene of their labours; and in 1843 it was taken by the French, who assumed the protectorate of the island—an euphuistic expression for one of the meanest and most unrighteous acts ever done by a powerful nation to an insignificant and unoffending race. The reasons for the seizure are not on the surface, for the island is comparatively small; it is out of the way of the great lines of commerce, and instead of a gain it has been an annual loss to the French nation.

And here we take the opportunity of narrating an incident which we believe has never been published, and which seems to explain the cause of the seizure of Tahiti. Before we took formal possession of New Zealand, considerable time was suffered to elapse in negotiations with the native chiefs, neither party being in much haste, but both anxious to make the best bargain. An English Consul in one of the most important French harbours noticed that a large frigate was preparing for a long voyage, and managed to learn after much difficulty that she was destined for a secret mission to the Antipodes. On communicating his information to his own Government, Lord Palmerston, surmising her destination, immediately ordered the swiftest sailing vessel in Her Majesty's service to be got ready for sea, and despatched her with secret instructions not to be opened until a fixed latitude was reached far on the way to the Cape of Good Hope. When they were opened they were found to contain orders to use all possible despatch to reach New Zealand, and when there immediately to take possession in the name of Her Majesty. On the voyage a French frigate was seen sailing in the same direction, apparently as eager to make all sail and avoid observation as the English one. After three days she was lost to view, but whether she was ahead or astern was not known. As soon as the English commander reached New Zealand he landed, assembled such of the chiefs and people as were at hand, erected the English standard, saluted it, and thus took possession. Imagine, then, the chagrin of the French when on arriving thirty-six hours after their English rivals they found themselves thus forestalled! It is believed that to soothe their disappointed vanity, and to be able to boast of far distant possessions, the French Government resolved to seize on Tahiti, and through this, as they assumed, on the islands of the entire group.

The deed was a very dastardly one. The people and the Governor of the island were very well disposed to all Europeans, and were guilty of no wrong or offence. They had, indeed, refused to allow two French Roman Catholic priests to reside on the island, but their refusal was justified by law as well as reason, and was associated neither with insult nor violence, but it was a fresh illustration of the fable of the wolf and the lamb. And so, after a shameful series of false charges, threats, fines, intimidations, and cajolings, the Protectorate was established, and poor Pomare IV. was disestablished and made a pensioner on the French Government. It is but justice to add that during the long thirty-five years of her subsequent life, that treated her with courtesy and respect.

It is the life of this unfortunate, but devout and amiable lady that Mr. Pritchard has written. We wish he had given us more information respecting the country, the people, and even the queen herself. Of the ninety-three pages of the volume, about sixty are devoted to a narration of events relating to the Protectorate, and of that event we have a more authentic and detailed account than is anywhere else to be found. But since all that we know of Pomare conveys a high conception of her feminine and Christian character, we wish Mr. Pritchard had given us further details of her manner of life. This he is well able to do, for he was a missionary in the island some time before her deposition; he was British Consul, and her principal adviser during the troubles, until he was unjustly and unceremoniously removed, only because of his influence over her, and since then he has ever enjoyed her friendship. The following extract sufficiently indicates that Pomare was more worthy of royal power than most who sway it in far wider spheres:—

Prior to the French taking forcible possession of Tahiti, Queen Pomare and the principal chiefs, with the most intelligent of the inhabitants, used to meet annually to hold a friendly conference; the object of the meeting was to consider what plans could be adopted for the benefit of the islands, both in a temporal and spiritual point of view. On one of these occasions her Majesty sent for a Bible, and had it placed on the table before the chairman.

Just as they were about to commence, her secretary stood up, and addressing the assembly, said: "Queen Pomare has requested me to fetch the Word of God, and to put it where you can all see it. It is her wish that whatever comes before you to-day for consideration, you should first ask, 'Is it in accordance with that Book?' If it be, adopt it, but if not in accordance with that Book, discard it."

From the time the Queen became a member of the Mission Church in 1835, she was very regular in her attendance on the means of grace. She was seldom absent from the Bible-class, the prayer-meetings, or the preaching of the Gospel. She was fond of sacred music, and was herself a good singer.

Two of her maids-in-waiting were also good singers, and these three formed a part of my choir in the mission church at Papeeti.

None appeared to take greater interest in the service of praise than these three, the Queen herself occasionally setting the time in the absence of the leader.

It is a gratifying proof of the depth of Pomare's religiousness, and of the wise and noble relations early established between her and the Protestant missions, that her attachment to the Puritan form of Scripture truth and worship never waned, notwithstanding all attempts to interest her in Popery and the moral laxity of most Europeans around her.

MR. THOMAS COOPER ON EVOLUTION.*

We cannot say that Mr. Thomas Cooper has, in all instances, made successful points against the evolutionists, or the teachers of natural selection, in this little volume; but he has made one or two efficient points, and has stated the whole question with no little clearness and force. Necessarily, he has had to adapt his terms to his audience; but he does not sacrifice much in reducing his scientific knowledge to a popular level. Popular, in the fullest sense of course, it is; for the book is composed of a series of lectures delivered throughout England to the type of hearers Mr. Thomas Cooper is most desirous to influence—that is, audiences which contain a large proportion of working men. To some it might seem as though the attempt to interest such a class in scientific and speculative problems was not to do them much service; but it is day by day becoming more and more apparent that such doctrines as are presented by our leading scientists, and indirectly recommended to them by the newspaper press, come very speedily to bear upon the very practical question of religion or no-religion. The radical doctrines of belief in a God, and the immortality of the soul (with its co-relative of reward and punishment), are immediately involved; and it is impossible for a man to speak seriously of these matters from the platform taken by Mr. Cooper without reference to the scientific tendencies of the day. Mr. Cooper's position thus far stands fully justified; and, on the whole, the little volume seems to us well fitted to secure the end for which it was written and printed. It is not, in the first instance, a reply to Mr. Darwin, Professor Huxley, Mr. Herbert Spencer, and the rest, but rather an exposition of their peculiar attitude in relation to the religious instincts of man, with passing criticisms on them, adapted to minds not accustomed or trained to the work of dialectic or metaphysical inquiry. The following passage near the outset is in this light very good:—

Some of us opened the book titled "The Origin of Species by Natural Selection" with indescribable curiosity, for the latter part of its title made us wonder what the author could mean. Selection of any kind, we reflected, must be an intelligent process; it could only be the action of mind. But what could be meant by natural selection?

And then the author explains Mr. Darwin's idea that in the "struggle for existence" the strongest and most fitted to survive survives, while through the unlimited periods of time changes effected in various individuals and classes by changed habit and determination is sufficient to account for the vast variety that we now see. And Mr. Cooper goes on:—

Hundreds of years, or hundreds of thousands of years, are not sufficient; he must have millions of years. And then he maintains it is perfectly possible that all the known classes, orders, genera, families, and species, of both plants and animals, may have come to exist by one variation—however small—being added to another, and then another, and so on. Nay, he contends that not only the forms and changes of physical structure in animals, but even their degrees of instinct and intelligence, and their propensities and habits, have grown by natural selection. As for man, Mr. Darwin maintains that he is descended from a hairy quadruped with a tail and pointed ears that was accustomed to live in trees. He means that we come out of apes and monkeys. Lastly, he believes that our moral nature—our highest nature—is derived from the lower animals; for the dog manifests "love, reverence, fidelity, and obedience," and so the religious sentiment in man comes by natural selection, as well as his physical form or animal nature.

In discussing these positions Mr. Cooper makes good use of the common arguments in combination with some newer ones. He refers to the fact that you can only go a certain length in crossing breeds, and beyond that—sterility; he cites the truth that no progress is noticeable among the animals most frequently referred to as showing the higher developments now. It is worth noting that, while a certain class

* *Evolution.* The Stone Book and the Mosaic Record of Creation. By THOMAS COOPER, Author of the "Purgatory of Suicides," &c., &c. (Hodder and Stoughton.)

of sceptics are eager to press man's antiquity very far back, the evolutionists should not aid them as they do, since as far back as we can inquire, no faintest sign of such advance can be noted in the lower animals as, in view of the vast periods, should naturally be noticeable, if order and species and class have been developed out of each other. Mr. Cooper writes on this point:—

If evolution be true, though the dumb ape-men are no more, we ought to behold some progress upwards in the race next below them. What progress are they making—the gorilla and orang and chimpanzee? Do they approach towards our human civilisation? Where are their houses, their towns, their cities? Where are their ships, their bridges, their railways? Where are their books, their libraries, their picture and sculpture galleries? Where are their arts and sciences? Which of the animals have they tamed and domesticated?

How dreary the answer! "They all remain in their savagery still." One would think it would silence these wild philosophers. But when men set themselves to maintain a theory, how often do we see that they are not moved even by what they themselves confess to be the strongest disproofs of their theory. It is a well-known fact that animals of different species do not breed together; or if, as in the instance of the horse and ass, a hybrid (the mule) is produced, the hybrids will not breed. So long as this remains a fact, says Professor Huxley, so long Mr. Darwin's theory can only remain a theory! And yet Professor Huxley proclaims himself an evolutionist!

Historic time has given us no proof of evolution. Yonder, in old Egypt, are the pictures of the camel, and the crocodile, and the hippopotamus, and the ape and monkeys, and other creatures, with the mummies of the ox, and cat, and ibis, and all show that there has been no evolution in the instance of any of these animals, in several thousand years. This was a fact on which the illustrious Cuvier was wont to insist very strongly, in his rejection of the La Marckian doctrine.

And who, that thinks of the old Greeks, can assert there has been any evolution for man? We are neither so fine a people physically, nor in intelligence. When you remember their poetry, and think of their Homer, Æschylus, and Sophocles, and a long list besides, when you think of their philosophy, and remember their Plato and Aristotle, and a countless host of other names; when you think of the art of government and remember their almost perfect Pericles; when you think of patriotism, and remember their Leonidas and hundreds of other heroes; when you think of their marvellous sculpture, and remember that no modern nation has ever approached it in excellence; when you think of the perfect beauty of their language, who can fail to pronounce the old Greeks the most matchless people that ever yet existed! You will say, we know more than they knew. Just so; because we reap the knowledge and the experience of ages. But we are not the equals of the old Greeks, as a people, for all that.

There are some signs of the whimsical theory of evolution, soon taking another phase. Carl Vogt has given hints that perhaps they have, after all, made a mistake as to the line of descent. It may be found, he conjectures, that man is not descended from the ape family, but from the dog.

The other two lectures, though not so striking, are equally clear and able, and breathing the same spirit of reverent investigation.

BRIEF NOTICES.

Chips from Many Blocks. By ELIHU BURRITT. (Sampson Low and Co.) Mr. Burritt tells us in the preface to this work that it is issued in Canada, and that it is "the last book" he will be able to make. Genial is the preface, as it was sure to be. The writer refers to his interest in Canada and to its growing literature. He says, "The idea of contributing a few pages to that literature, at a time when it is beginning to assume such a national imprimatur, is especially interesting to me. For, next to the Mother Country, Canada is most associated with the pleasant memories of extensive travels, and kind and genial hospitalities." The brief essays in this volume are of the most miscellaneous character. In the first collection international questions are treated. Here we have, amongst others, a forcible plea for "integration of the British Empire"—that is, for a common representation in Parliament of all the dependencies of Great Britain; a subject which has already received some attention, but, for its magnitude and interest, scarcely sufficient. At present, even with the few, it is a sentiment rather than a policy. "America's Debt of National Honour" is well and directly treated. There are sensible papers on the Eastern Question, pervaded by fine tone and sympathy. But it would be impossible to enumerate all the subjects that are discussed by Mr. Burritt. Some are educational; some are religious and moral; some are chatty talks on social manners; and so on. All have a high purpose; some are full of curious information; not one is there that is not worth reading. Straight thought is their main intellectual characteristic. Mr. Burritt is entitled to say something of himself, and he writes, "I never felt a more lively interest in the issue of one of my books than in the publication of this volume. I think it will prove the most useful and interesting that I have produced, because I have made chips from more blocks than ever I laid axe to before."

In the Wilderness. By CHARLES DUDLEY WARNER. (Sampson Low and Co.) There is a refinement of humour in the slight sketches in this book which has not been equalled by any American writer. It is scarcely too much to say that only Charles Lamb himself could have surpassed some of the writing, and he has not always written better. "The Wilderness" is the Adirondac; the papers consist of half-a-dozen descriptions of adventure, which keep one in a rippling satisfaction and content all through. Take "How I Killed a Bear," or, still better, "A Fight with a Trout"—one can hardly imagine more enjoyable humour being got out of the incidents described. The "Character Study" is equally a work of art, but of stronger power, although not of higher finish; while a distinct essay, "How Spring came in New England," cracks with humorous corruscations. Mr. Dudley Warner is already well known in England. This work, slight although its texture may be, places him in the front rank of American authors.

A Book of Remembrance in Relation to the Mystery of God. (W. Poole.) We notice this work with some reluctance, and only because of the painful earnestness of the writer. It is another reading of the mystery of the human race, with hosts of interpretations of prophecy. Perhaps we had better allow the author to describe it in his own words,—

It may assist readers to follow the narrative with less difficulty if its design is briefly summarised. This design is threefold. First, to treat of the mystery of God in its relation to His works within Himself, which are manifold and all in duplicate. Second, to treat of the mystery of God in its relation to His invisible works beyond Himself, which are His express image, being also manifold and all in duplicate. And third, to treat of the mystery of God in its relation to His visible works, the crown of which is man, whose destiny it is to make visibly manifest, in his redeemed nature, the image and glory of God; and yet higher—to receive the gift of an understanding or mind capable of searching out, and of appreciating and enjoying when discovered, so much of the unsearchable wisdom and knowledge of God's mystery as may be revealed from knowledge to knowledge, and from glory to glory, world without end.

Let us say that, notwithstanding the author's statement, that he has prosecuted this study for many years, we have utterly failed to comprehend his book. What is intelligible is fanciful, but a devout spirit reigns throughout. There may be minds capable of assimilating what is here written, but ours is not of that order.

Religious Strife in British History. By the Hon. ALBERT S. G. CANNING. (London: Smith, Elder, and Co.) Mr. Canning thinks "it is evident that Christianity was intended, both by its teaching and the example of Jesus, to have only the conscientious and merciful among its votaries, and none but the wicked and merciless for its foes." He finds in the history of Christianity the most remarkable contrast to this intention:—

There is nothing more surprising (he says) to the impartial historical student than the fierce sanguinary quarrels between some of the most well-meaning, conscientious men—Christian and non-Christian—who have ever existed, upon the one great subject of religious belief. It is probable that the misery so caused has exceeded any injuries ever inflicted on mankind by lawless ruffians who despise and ignore all religion.

It seems hardly worth any one's while to write a volume upon this theme. The illustrations abound in every history, and glow with excessive light and heat on the pages of Gibbon. British history is meagre, compared with that of Germany, Italy, and France in instances of religious strife, and some of these collected by Mr. Canning are amusing in their littleness. One is that "whilst Charles I. was a captive, he was denied the attendance of Episcopal chaplains," which was a necessary precaution against his duplicity. But after his condemnation he was attended by Bishop Juxon. The second is that of the eminently pious Charles II., who, desiring to die a Roman Catholic, was unable to procure a priest. His brother smuggled one into the palace for him, and he "remained with Charles to the last; but the fact of his admission was carefully kept secret, and thus Charles II. may be said, respecting his religious convictions, to have died almost a persecuted man." The struggle consequent upon the Revolution of 1688 in Scotland and Ireland was not entirely due to religion, but Mr. Canning regards it from that point of view. He admits, however, finally that the toleration which now exists is "chiefly owing to Christian influences." The book is not one that we should place upon the shelf of a school library, but it may do good in the hands of a strong and zealous religious partisan. It may lead him to see how alien the spirit of strife is from that of Christ, and how unnecessary have been the repeated persecutions which the various Christian sects have inflicted upon those from whom they differed.

Heredity, is a "Village Dialogue on some causes of degeneracy in our race," and it is written by a

"Protestant Clergyman" (Remington and Co.). Its purpose is to emphasise the importance of wise marriages. The arguments are mere truisms.—*Mary with Many Friends*, by GEORGINA M. MOORE (E. Marlborough and Co.), is a good character sketch of a child, abounding with capital child-talk and some lively incidents. It should be a favourite with the "seven-year-olds."—Another of JULES VERNE'S marvellous narratives! This time it is of the *Survivors of the Chancellor* (Sampson Low and Co.). Never was a shipwreck, or life on a raft more powerfully or vividly described than in these exciting pages, which all boys will devour. The illustrations are as good as the letterpress.—*A Simple Maiden*, by LESLIE KEITH (Marcus Ward and Co.), is another of these publishers' "Blue Bell" series of cheap one-volume novels. The character is finely drawn and admirably contrasted—Hester and Rose being equally well conceived.—*The Other House*, by MARY R. HIGHAM (James Nisbet and Co.), tells of an old country town, where lived an old physician with his three daughters, a rector and his sister, and to which came a young and new physician. How Clarice hated this rival of her father, how she flew at him! But passion is not the predominant feature of this work, which is most readable for its quiet and pleasant domestic sketches, chastely inspired and drawn.—*A Companion to Killarney*, by Mr. and Mrs. S. C. HALL (Marcus Ward and Co.), is, we are told, a revised edition of a similar work that was written by the same authors forty years ago. It appears (for we do not know Killarney) to be very completely executed, it is well illustrated, and has a good pocket-map. We notice the strong recommendation of Glengariff as a winter health resort—a recommendation that has reached us before.—*The Merry-weather*, by Mrs. WIGLEY (Jarrold and Sons), is the second edition of a temperance tale of the usual style.—*Children's Holidays*, by MARIANNE FARNINGHAM (James Clarke and Co.), consists of "out-door stories for the little ones"—slight, not very remarkable, but readable.

THE FORTHCOMING CHURCH CONGRESS.—ROCKS AHEAD.

The rival "schools" of thought in the Established Church (says the *Sheffield Independent*) are growing becomingly excited in regard to the approaching Congress in Sheffield. "High" and "Low" partisans are gathering themselves together in battle array, and there is a prospect of an imposing display of the theological fends which are allowed to rage within the pale of the State ecclesiastical fabric. The Ritualistic organ, the *Church Times*, and the journal of Belgravia millinery and religion—the *Morning Post*—are indignant to discover in the list of speakers "a considerable predominance is reserved for the 'Low' Church party." But the amiable and accomplished *Rock*—the recognised vitriol-thrower of the other side—won't admit the fairness of this deduction at any price. It lashes itself into a state of picturesque fury which every staunch "Low" warrior will gleefully approve, and proceeds to assail the "monstrous pretensions" of the priests with a keenness and vivacity calculated to strike envy into the soul of the great-hearted *Reynolds* himself. Our contemporary proceeds to quote the following from the *Rock*:—

A glance at the proposed subjects will show that they have been chosen with a double purpose—an affected adaptation to the needs of the Church with a scrupulous avoidance of anything likely to disturb the real object of the Congress, which is to conjure up an apparition of Church union before a gaping crowd that is to be lulled or gulled into the belief that such an optical delusion is real flesh and blood. Take the first for example—"Foreign and Colonial Missions: their Condition, Organisation, and Prospect." Everyone knows how increasingly divergent are the views of the Evangelical and High-Church parties on the subject of missions, and necessarily so, as the Evangelical missionaries preach CHRIST, while those of the opposite party preach Church, so that their irreconcilable differences are already producing disastrous consequences abroad, with worse, we fear, to come. Yet of these evils, especially proceeding from the conduct of arrogant Puseyite colonial bishops, we shall hear nothing at the Congress! A great deal will be said on the subject of missions in the abstract, but of the essential difference between the work of the C.M.S. and the work of the S.P.G. we shall hear nothing. The work of Christ and Belial will be equally approved and encouraged! Of the second subject, "Modern Doubts and Difficulties in Relation to Revealed Religion," we shall only say that the selection of the Rev. Brownlow Maitland as one of the speakers points to a very delicate handling of it. That rev. gentleman has distinguished himself by a book in which he tries to demolish the direct testimony of the Pentateuch, and to defend the assailants of God's inspired Word. After the exposures made in connection with the adoption of his book by the S.P.C.K. and Lord Shaftesbury's retirement from the society in consequence, it certainly required no little courage of a bad kind to give this sceptical writer so prominent a place in the programme; but as it seems to please the bishops and committee that the Church of England shall be a *refugium peccatorum* without any regard for God's honour or man's edification, Mr. Maitland will serve as well as any other man to repre-

sent our present latitudinarian attitude. In connection with the third subject, "The Just Limits of the Comprehensiveness in the National Church," we meet with our friend Canon Ryle, and surely his bitterest enemies could not wish to see him in a more discreditable position than associated in a work which professes to be religious, with a pronounced Romanist—the Hon. C. L. Wood, president of the E.C.U.—on the one hand, and a pronounced Rationalist—the Rev. J. L. Davies, a disciple of Frederick Maurice—on the other. The presence of these two extreme representatives of opposite schools of thought, in conjunction with Canon Ryle—whom we would fain still reckon among extreme Evangelicals—surely settles—so far as the Congress is concerned—the question as to the practical comprehensiveness of the Church of England. It is worthy of note that the subjects are all Church subjects—"Church Work," "Church in Relation to Temperance," "The Attitude of the Church towards Popular Literature," &c., "Women's Work in the Church," "Free and Open Churches," "The Church: Its Property, Endowments, &c.," "Marriage Law as affecting the Church," "Parochial Church Councils," "Church Music," &c. Not once even by accident does the word "Christ" occur in the programme. Have any of the thirty-eight Evangelical readers and speakers who, out of a total of eighty-six are to take part, noted this fact? Verily the four dozen on the other side have carried the day! Mr. Holman Hunt might now undertake a picture of Christ outside the Congress and endeavouring to enter, but kept out by Giant Church.

DISESTABLISHMENT LECTURES IN SOMERSETSHIRE.

The *Wills Journal* of Saturday last reports the following:—

The Rev. George Duncan lectured at Ridgway on Friday evening last on the subject, "Why am I a Dissenter?" There was a large attendance of villagers from Marston, Nunney, Trudoxhill, Clifton, Wanstrow, and other places in the neighbourhood. Seats were pitched in the roadway for the accommodation of the audience. The Rev. J. H. Best presided, and at the close a unanimous vote of thanks was accorded the lecturer.

On Saturday evening last the Rev. G. Duncan, of Frome, delivered a lecture at Gurney Slade on the question, "Why am I a Dissenter?" The Rev. J. H. Best occupied the chair. A vote of thanks was presented the lecturer at the close.

On Tuesday evening Mr. Duncan lectured on the same subject at Farrington Gurney. Immediately upon his arrival some scores of children put in an appearance, and as a distribution of tracts at once took place, their parents soon flocked to the highway, where Mr. Duncan had commenced speaking from a wagonette. He had not proceeded far with his lecture when the village policeman came upon the scene and charged him with obstructing the thoroughfare, and as the crowd by this time filled up the road for several yards, the representative of law and order insisted that the vehicle should "move on" at once. Mr. Duncan then persuaded the people to stand on each side of the road so that there should not be any obstruction, but the gentleman in blue insisted that they must clear away. The lecturer then left his wagonette and continued for nearly half an hour to harangue the crowd while pacing up and down the pavement. A resident in the locality then told the policeman he did not want the noise there, whereupon Mr. Duncan again betook himself to the vehicle and the crowd hauled him in triumph to the vicinity of the village inn. Here a copious supply of Liberation tracts was pressed upon the people, and as Mr. Duncan was thinking of departing a sturdy villager said, "Look-ee 'ere, measter, I'll let-ee 'ave my yard, and no one can turn 'ee out o' he." This offer was accepted, and to the yard in question the people flocked in hundreds, and Mr. Duncan again spoke of the injustice of a State Establishment and a State endowment of religion. The village schoolmaster frequently interrupted the speaker by shouting, "Proof!" "Proof!" After some remonstrances, Mr. Duncan was allowed to proceed, and at the close the schoolmaster addressed the crowd, and Mr. Duncan followed with a reply. A theological student resident at the vicarage then put several questions to the lecturer, the replies to which appeared to satisfy the bystanders. The student then proposed a resolution to the effect that "the relations at present existing between Church and State were satisfactory and ought to be retained," but this was lost for want of a seconder, while a vote of thanks to Mr. Duncan was proposed, seconded, and carried with acclamation, followed by hearty cheering.

ECCLESIASTICAL MISCELLANY.

OMINOUS !—The *Law Times*, remarking upon the great increase of solicitors for the last few years, says that a large class of persons who formerly sent their sons to the Church have, since the disestablishment and disendowment of the Irish Church, sent their sons into the legal profession. It is certain that the number of those who annually present themselves for ordination has decreased during the last few years.

A LIBERAL VICAR.—A scholar in the Sunday-school connected with the Congregational Chapel, Tamworth, was drowned a few days since, while bathing in the river Anker. He was interred in the churchyard. The Rev. G. Luckett (pastor), the superintendent, and a number of the scholars followed, and the teachers bore his remains to the grave. In the service, which was conducted in the church, the vicar (the Rev. Brooke Lambert) wanted the pastor, the Rev. G. Luckett, to assist in the service, which he did by reading the Scriptures appointed to be read on such occasions, and by the

kind permission of the vicar the children sang a hymn at the grave. A good example for other vicars to follow.

A CONGREGATION LEAVING A CHURCH.—Last month a change of clergymen in a parish in Hampshire caused a change in the services at the parish church, and on Sunday, before the Communion Service began, the clergyman turned to light some candles which had been placed on the table. A movement among the portion of the congregation which had not left the church after the sermon took place, and on the clergyman turning round after lighting the candles he found that he and the churchwarden were the only people left in the church. Up to four years ago the church had been one in which the services were ultra-Ritualistic. During the past four years an Evangelical clergyman has had it. It has now passed into the hands of the Ritualists again.—*The Rock*.

SUNDAY EXHIBITIONS IN AMERICA.—The Permanent Exhibition at Philadelphia, in spite of opposition, has been opened to the public on Sundays. That the movement is a popular one is indicated by the large number of people who passed through the old Centennial turnstiles each day. On the first Sunday about 6,000 visitors were registered. On the second nearly the same number were present. The attendance on the second Sunday would have been much larger had it not been for a thunderstorm. The management have provided a series of sacred concerts; also vocal music rendered by talent of a superior quality. On the third Sunday the attendance was about as large as on the two previous Sundays, the anticipated increase having again failed on account of the weather. The assemblage was orderly, and almost entirely composed of clerks and mechanics.

IRISH INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION.—In order to conciliate the Presbyterian body in Ulster to the new Education Act, the Government have appointed the Rev. Dr. Porter, considered the leader of the Conservative section of the Presbyterian body in Ulster, to the post of paid commissioner, and the Presbyterians have determined by resolution to give the Act their full support. Dr. Porter is the author of several books on the East, and the son-in-law to the late Dr. Henry Cooke. The Intermediate Education Act has already begun to stimulate enterprise and sectarian rivalry. In Portadown the Rev. Samuel Andrews, a Presbyterian minister, has lost no time in taking steps for the establishment of a new school for intermediate education, and he has received a number of subscriptions for the purpose already. The Wesleyan Methodists in the same town have just appointed a committee to arrange for the formation of a second school of the same character.

GERMANY AND THE VATICAN.—It is stated from Rome that the Congregation of Cardinals appointed by the Pope to decide the questions pending between Germany and the Vatican is composed of Cardinals Nina, Perrieri, Bartolini, De Luca, and Di Pietro. The following is said to be the present position of the negotiations:—"It has been agreed that the Roman Church in Germany shall be ruled in accordance with the articles of the Prussian Constitution, and the May Laws shall remain in force, but the Prussian Government consents to make a declaration as to the manner in which they are to be put into execution. The terms of this declaration have not yet been settled. The Vatican claims that the exiled bishops shall be recalled, but this Prince Bismarck refuses, and a discussion is now proceeding as to whether an amnesty is possible. The Emperor of Germany requires that the priests and clergy shall recognise the authority of the Government in the provinces, but the Vatican has not yet conceded this point. Another congregation, consisting of Cardinals Bartolini, Mertel, and Ledochowsky is engaged in examining the questions between Russia and the Vatican with respect to the Roman Catholic Church in Poland. Monsignor Jacobini, the Papal Nuncio at the Austrian Court, takes part in the discussions of the congregation.

PROTESTANT JOURNALISM IN FRANCE.—A daily Protestant paper is projected in France at the price of a sou a day. It will be thoroughly Republican in tone. While supplying general news, it will be the special organ of the Protestant movement. The general direction and editorship will, says the prospectus, be in the hands of converts who have renounced Romanism and formally joined the Protestant ranks. The dogmatic and ecclesiastical questions now rife in the Protestant Churches of France will not be touched upon. In regard to Church matters its business will be to say to proselytes, go to the nearest church and get your families inscribed on the register as Protestants. Evangelisation, properly so called, the paper will not attempt. It will simply seek to induce persons to enter the Protestant ranks. While propagating Protestantism, the paper will wage war on Clericalism and Materialism. A capital of 130,000*fr.* has been raised, but it is not proposed to begin the paper till nearly double that sum is forthcoming. The proposed name is *Le Signal*. The prospectus is signed by Léon Pilatre, editor of the *Eglise Libre*; by M. Pilon and Remouvier, the editors of *La Critique Philosophique*, and by Eugène Réveillaud, who is to be the editor.

THE MACKONOCHE CASE.—Monday was mentioned in the notice of appeal as the day on which an application would be made to the High Court of Appeal on the part of Mr. Martin, the promoter, as well as Lord Penzance, the Dean of Arches, to set aside the judgment of the Court of Queen's Bench granting a writ of prohibition by which his lordship was prohibited at his peril from proceeding

further in the suit of *Martin v. Mackonochie*. After the service of the writ, notice of appeal was formally given for the 16th inst.; but nothing can be done until the 2nd of November, the commencement of Michaelmas sittings, "or so soon after as counsel can be heard," to raise the important question whether the judgment of the Queen's Bench Division is final on writs of prohibition. This is the first case of the kind, and will settle the point whether there is an appeal to the High Court of Appeal on writs of prohibition. Hitherto such judgments have been considered final, and now the practice will be settled whether that division of the High Court of Justice is not open to revision by the High Court of Appeal. The Court of Queen's Bench reversed the decision of the Court of Arches, and now it is maintained that the High Court of Appeal has authority over that court, and that it has not exclusive and final jurisdiction in matters of prohibition.

Religious and Denominational News.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AID SOCIETY.

The autumnal session of the Derbyshire Congregational Union was held at Derby last week. On Monday there was a public meeting and service in Victoria-street Church. On Tuesday the business meeting was held, the Rev. T. G. Potter, the chairman for the year, presiding. About a hundred ministers and delegates were present. The CHAIRMAN stated that the special object of the conference was to ascertain the best means of bringing the claims of the Congregational Church Aid and Home Missionary Society, which was practically a reorganisation of the Home Missionary Society, before the united churches of the county, and the best means of connecting the same with the churches of the county and making it a great success. J. E. MANLOVE, Esq., of Chesterfield, read a paper on the best means of raising a sum necessary to meet the requirements which an association with the society required, and he moved that the annual collections for the county union be made in December, so as to enable the executive council to make up their books by the end of the year instead of in spring. Another paper was read by G. H. WHEATCROFT, Esq., of Wirksworth, also on the financial scheme. Various resolutions heartily supporting the union of the Derby association with the Church Aid Society, and appointing a period for the collections, &c., to be made, and otherwise supporting the project sought, were passed after each question had been thoroughly discussed. Dinner was afterwards served in the adjoining schoolroom, and amongst the toasts was "Success to the Congregational Church Aid and Home Missionary Society," which was responded to by the Rev. ALEXANDER HANNAY, secretary of the Congregational Union of England and Wales.

On Tuesday evening a public meeting was held in the London-road Congregational Chapel, for the purpose of furthering the interests of the Church Aid and Home Missionary Society. There was a large attendance, and the meeting was under the presidency of Mr. Plimsoll, M.P. Amongst those present were the Rev. T. Mirams (pastor of the chapel), Mr. W. Crosbie, M.A. (pastor of Victoria-street Church), Rev. A. Hannay, of London, Mr. H. Lee, J.P., Rev. J. Merwood, Rev. G. Snashall (Chesterfield), Rev. T. G. Potter, &c.

The CHAIRMAN, who met with a very cordial reception, said he felt drawn to accept the invitation to be present by the deep sympathy he had for the work in which Christian members were engaged, and by the profound respect which he had always entertained from his youth upwards for ministers of the Gospel. (Applause.) When he was a boy his pastor hoped that he would also become a minister, and the matter had frequently occupied his attention, but he had never thought that he was fit for the work of the ministry, as it seemed to require so high a standard of purity of life and motives. David, they would remember, was not permitted to build the Temple, but he was allowed to be useful in gathering the necessary materials for his son's work; and although he (Mr. Plimsoll) could not occupy the position of a minister of the Gospel, he could at least show his sympathy on all occasions. (Hear, hear.) He entertained great respect for the ministry for *two* reasons. First of all, they were the appointed agents to bring to the knowledge of fallen and sinful man the glorious life of immortality, brought to light by the Gospel. And in the second place, the Christian religion, as he had been learning during the travelling he had done of late years, afforded the only safe hope of spending the future life in the presence of God; while he had also learnt that in those countries where Christian men were to be found in large numbers there was a larger share of liberty and prosperity than was enjoyed in other communities. There were, however, countries where Christianity was professed, but where it was debased and the character of the ministers was bad. Where the Christian religion was unknown, justice was bought and sold, and there was a degree of oppression, poverty, and wretchedness, that no one who had not just left a Christian country could have any adequate conception of. (Applause.) He regarded Independent ministers as the heirs and successors of those grand Independents of former days to whom they were more greatly indebted than to any other class of men for the civil and religious liberty which was now enjoyed. (Applause.) He

believed the liberty they enjoyed—both civil and religious, which were scarcely inseparable—had still to be maintained. (Applause.) Events had occurred during the past twelve months which ought to make them keep a keen eye on their constitutional liberty, if they were not to have it tampered with almost irretrievably; and when civil liberty was in danger, religious liberty was not very safe. (Applause.) When he felt there was reason to apprehend their constitutional principles and liberties were threatened he looked to the Independents as the men who were the most likely to lend a helping hand in strengthening our institutions. (Applause.) When some paradox was put forward in the name of prerogative, and claims were made which they were bound to resist, he thought they were specially called upon to see that the fabric of their liberties was preserved intact; and as far as his influence and abilities went he intended to make them available for that purpose. Their civil liberties and constitutional rights must not be invaded by any specious prerogative any more than that this grand old England of theirs should become the tail end of an Eastern Empire.

Mr. HENRY LEE, of Manchester, next addressed the meeting. He was gratified to see Mr. Plimsoll occupying the chair, because they could not but associate his name with a movement that had been beneficial to a large number of their fellow-creatures. It was always a pleasure to meet persons like him, who were endeavouring to do what they could for mankind without reference to sects or parties. If the Independents of England could claim anything at all, it was that they had never sought to benefit themselves at the expense of any other denomination; while, on the other hand, they had tried their best to defend the principles which should take root in every section of the Christian Church, and were gratified in knowing that the views which their forefathers expounded, and which they had in some measure propagated, had been adopted to a large extent in many churches in England. (Applause.) The promoters expected from the Church Aid and Home Missionary Society a very large addition to the active life of the churches; and they also desired to interest the various churches in each other more than they had hitherto been—they wanted to keep each church independent, but to induce the churches of Derby to be interested in the churches of Devonshire and Dorsetshire. Another object of the society was to augment the stipends of the ministers, so as to render them comfortable in their several spheres, and stimulate them to more active exertions. He next advocated the abolition of seat rents, as they were no longer applicable to the times. Seat rents were an unjust method of raising money, because it made the poor man with a large family pay more than the rich man who had only his wife to keep, which ought not to be the case. (Applause.) The success achieved by the society would depend upon the spirit with which it was carried out, and one method of promoting it would be by each church having its own auxiliary, while he hoped the work would be carried on so vigorously that 100,000*l.* would be annually raised. (Applause.)

Mr. W. CROSBIE, M.A., said he was glad to see Mr. Plimsoll in the chair that night, and he was sure he was expressing the feeling of a very large majority of the electors of that borough when he said he trusted Mr. Plimsoll would represent it for many years. (Applause.) The speech just delivered, and the other speeches recently delivered by him, proved that in these perilous times he, at least, was the right man in the right place. He spoke in high terms of the vigorous efforts of Mr. Hannay and Mr. Lee on behalf of the Church Aid Society, and said that nothing would be wanting on the part of the churches of Derbyshire to make it a great success. (Applause.) Though this was an exceptionally heavy year for the church in Victoria-street—being its centenary year—it would repeat its collections in aid of the society before Christmas, and he believed several other churches had arrived at a similar decision. (Applause.) The first condition necessary for the success of the society was that it should be thoroughly understood, which was very easy, for simplicity was one of its chief characteristics and great recommendations. It reconciled combined action with individual liberty; it brought the churches into large fellowship, and at the same time preserved and strengthened the feeling of personal interest, sympathy, and responsibility. It would be the duty of pastors of churches to expound this scheme, and the exposition would be an education that would not fail to call forth new admiration for the free, rational, elastic, and Scriptural principles of evangelical Congregationalism. (Applause.) The second condition was faith, which was the spring of all healthy energetic action. This scheme had only to be understood to be believed in, and the more it was understood the more it would be believed in. The third condition of success was fidelity on the part of the churches—fidelity on the part of every member of every church, and on the part of the Executive and General Council of the Church Aid Society. A grave responsibility would rest upon them; great demands would be made upon their time, strength, wisdom, and patience. The organisation, it seemed to him, was perfect, but how much depended upon those who would be charged with its working, and how necessary it was that they should be sustained by the interest, liberality, enthusiasm, and co-operation of all the churches! Though he had mentioned this the last it was not the least, but was the most important of them all. (Applause.) He heartily

sympathised with Mr. Hannay and Mr. Lee in their advocacy of this scheme, because he believed it was one of the things that would prepare the way of the Lord when He came in the power of His Spirit to bless the churches and to raise them to the level of their present great opportunities.

The Rev. A. HANNAY next delivered an interesting address, which he commenced by echoing the expressions of gratification which had fallen from the previous speakers at the presence of Mr. Plimsoll. Highly as he appreciated the Christian ministry, he did not at all regret that Mr. Plimsoll had not entered it, for he had rendered such eminent service to justice and humanity, and had lifted up his voice so clear and firm for liberty, that few Christian ministers had an opportunity of doing—(applause)—while there was as much need for men of pure heart, high character, and quick conscientiousness, who were prepared to brave popular clamour and stand up for the truth, as for good preachers of the Gospel. He was, therefore, very grateful that Mr. Plimsoll was a member of Parliament and not a Congregational minister. (Applause.) He then spoke upon various points of interest in connection with the Church Aid Society, showing the necessity for such an organisation, and dwelling upon the objects which it was proposed to accomplish by means of its agency. (Applause.)

Mr. THOMAS GEORGE proposed a cordial vote of thanks to the Rev. A. Hannay and Mr. Lee for their attendance and speeches. The Rev. G. SNASHALL seconded the motion, which was carried, and Mr. Lee briefly replied.

The Rev. T. MIRAMS proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Plimsoll for presiding, expressing his regret at the announcement which the hon. member had made on the previous evening respecting his retirement from political life, and observing that it was a great privilege to have as their representative a gentleman whose life was influenced by religion, and whose whole political action emanated from a love of Christ and his fellow-men. (Applause.) Mr. OWEN seconded the motion, which was carried most cordially, and Mr. Plimsoll responded in a very few words, after which the proceedings terminated.

The Rev. S. Chisholm, of Spalding, has accepted the unanimous invitation to the pastorate of the Congregational Church, Ongar, Essex.

At Tottenham-court-road Chapel on Sunday last collections were made morning and evening, and the amount (25*l.* 10*s.*) is to be divided between the fund for the relief of the sufferers by the foundering of the Princess Alice and by the terrible colliery explosion of last week.

STOCKWELL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.—The Rev. C. Chambers, of Swanage, has accepted the hearty and unanimous invitation of this church to become its pastor. Mr. Chambers has had several invitations to other churches, which he has declined in favour of this, and we understand that he will at once enter upon his ministry.

ACCRINGTON.—A new Baptist place of worship in this Lancashire town has just been opened in New Lane. The Rev. Hugh Stowell Brown preached at the opening service. The chapel will accommodate about 750 persons, and the total cost is expected to be about 4,000*l.*, towards which 2,100*l.* has been promised or paid, leaving a deficiency of 1,900*l.* Among the ministers present at the opening services were the Revs. J. Naylor, pastor of the church; A. E. Greening, Ogden; Charles Williams, Accrington; H. Angus, Church; W. Karfoot (Congregationalist), Oswaldtwistle; W. E. Holt (United Methodist), Oswaldtwistle; E. Apperley (Congregationalist), Belthorn; B. Bowker, Sunny-side; and W. E. Jackson. The amount of 54*l.* was realised during the day.

THE WESLEYANS.—The minutes of the recent Conference have just been issued. The book is official, and gives a large amount of statistical and other information about Wesleyan matters. In Great Britain there are 480,876 church members, 24,096 on trial for church membership; 1,412 ministers, and 208 on trial for the ministry; supernumeraries, 249. In Ireland and Irish missions there are 19,950 members, and 506 on trial for church membership; 186 ministers, and thirty-six on trial for the ministry; supernumeraries forty-one. In foreign missions, 83,969 church members, 10,227 on trial for church membership; 288 ministers, and on trial for the ministry, 150; supernumeraries, thirteen. In the French Conference, 1,888 church members, on trial, sixty-three; ministers, twenty-four, on trial, three; supernumeraries, two. Totals—486,083 church members, 34,892 on trial; 1,910 ministers, 397 on trial; supernumeraries, 305. A committee has been appointed to consider the proposal to hold an oecumenical Methodist Conference.

ENGLISH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—The Sustentation Fund Committee of the English Church have just issued a special appeal. Last quarter the committee felt it their duty to pay once more an equal dividend at the rate of 200*l.* per annum. This, however, could not be done without borrowing, leaving the fund in debt at the end of the half-year to the large amount of 1,600*l.*, and the attention of the whole church is drawn to this grave fact. An effort is now being made to raise a reserve fund of at least 2,000*l.*, which is meeting with hearty response. The committee say they cannot believe that after having sustained an equal dividend for two years at 200*l.* per annum, and in the presence of the fact that both the sister churches in Scotland have virtually reached the same point, the Church in England is prepared to revert to a lower figure. Neither can they believe that a Church, reported to have last

year raised 228,727*l.*, can experience any insuperable difficulty in raising the additional 3,000*l.* necessary to secure the equal dividend of 200*l.*

SOMERSET ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES.—The autumnal gathering of the Somerset Association of Congregational Churches was held at Taunton on Tuesday. Morning and evening services were held in Paul-street Chapel, when sermons were preached by the Rev. J. Graham, of Brighton. After the morning service a luncheon took place in the Memorial Hall; the Rev. J. Marsden, of Taunton, presided. After proposing the "Health of the Queen," Mr. Marsden entered into a review of the work of the denomination during the past year, and took a brief glance at political and ecclesiastical matters generally. He expressed concurrence with the resolution passed at the recent Conference of Congregationalists on the Eastern Question, in condemning the policy of the Government, as upholding the cause of the oppressor against the oppressed. He also spoke of the financial scheme started by the denomination in connection with the Congregational Church Aid Society, with a view of increasing the stipends of its ministers, and also of evangelists. About 400*l.* per annum would be required for this purpose for the county of Somerset, and he mentioned that at a recent meeting held at Bridgewater as much as 100*l.* per annum had been promised. Other addresses followed.

SCHOOLS FOR MINISTERS' DAUGHTERS.—On Monday afternoon a public meeting was held in the Wesleyan Chapel, High-street, Clapham, for the purpose of inaugurating the new school for the daughters of Wesleyan ministers, at King's-road, Clapham-park. The chair was occupied by the Rev. Dr. Rigg, President of the Conference, and there was a large attendance. The schools hitherto devoted to this purpose, situated at Clapton and the Five Elms, have been amalgamated, and removed to the new site at Clapham Common. The new institution has accommodation for some seventy inmates, under the management of Miss Findlay, principal of the school. The chairman, in his opening address, remarked that the education for girls in this country had been very much neglected. Not but that female education in England was the best in the world, for the greatest admirer of German institutions must admit that the education given to females in that country could not be compared with the education imparted in this. Education in England, he held, was also superior to that given in the United States, a proof of which was that the best citizens of the States sent their daughters to England to receive a sound education and culture. Still, much remained unfulfilled, as half of what constituted and belonged to real female education had yet to be done. Several other gentlemen having spoken on behalf of the institution, and urged its claims on their support, the proceedings came to a close.

MISSIONS IN JAPAN.—The Rev. W. E. Griffin, an American clergyman, who has spent about twelve years in Japan, has published an interesting paper on social progress in that wonderful country. His facts about religion are of peculiar interest. Whereas Japan was, for over two centuries, a shaking of the head to Christian nations, and a proverb to the historian of persecution, she has, since 1873, withdrawn her public edicts against Christianity, and to the Protestant, Roman, and Greek forms of that faith the country is practically and equally as open as to foreign trade and commerce. There are now fifteen organised Protestant churches, with a membership of nearly as many hundreds, and a following of many thousands in Japan. Russian missionaries have at least three churches, and a following of probably 5,000 souls. French missionaries report a following of over 12,000 persons, with several handsome church buildings. Then the translation of the Bible has been "like building a railway through the national intellect; though, after all, we suspect the tendency among educated Japanese is not to adopt any special form of Christianity, but to construct for themselves a sort of selected religious creed, drawn from a variety of sources. Still, the churches, schools, colleges, hospitals, dispensaries, Christian literature, and Romanisation of the language, established and carried on by a small army of philanthropic ladies and gentlemen, must have had their effect. In the work of national education, elementary and special, first-class private schools maintain a healthy rivalry with those established by Government."

BAPTIST UNION.—AUTUMNAL SESSION AT LEEDS.—The formal programme of the forthcoming session has not yet been completed, but we believe that the following arrangements have been made:—On the Monday evening (Oct. 7), a service will be held, at which the Rev. George Gould (vice-president) will preach. On the same evening, by special request, a temperance meeting has been arranged for at the Albert Hall. Mr. W. S. Caine, of Liverpool, will preside, and among the speakers are to be the Revs. J. P. Chown, W. J. Mayers, and J. H. Cooke. A Band of Hope choir is to enliven the proceedings. Tuesday is the day set apart for our foreign missions, the arrangements for which are not yet complete. On Wednesday there will be an early morning prayer-meeting, conducted by the Rev. H. Dowson. At the first session of the union the president will, it is expected, deliver an address, and probably there will be the reception of deputations from other religious bodies, after which will come the transaction of business. In the afternoon in the spacious Wesleyan Chapel in Oxford-place, Mr. Spurgeon will preach. In the evening of this day there are to be four sermons preached in different parts of the town—i.e., at

Burley-road Chapel, by Mr. W. P. Lockhart, of Liverpool; at York-road Chapel, by the Rev. J. P. Chown; at Wintown-street Chapel, by the Rev. G. W. McCree; and at Hunslet Tabernacle, by the Rev. E. G. Gange. On Thursday morning there is to be early service, when the Rev. Benwell Bird will specially address the young. At the session of the union on this day a paper is expected from the Rev. R. H. Marten, B.A., on the subject of "Forms of Worldliness in the Church." Then the important business connected with the revision of the home mission organisation and work is to be discussed. There will be a statement by the Rev. J. H. Millard, and it is expected that a resolution will be presented by the Rev. J. P. Chown and seconded by Mr. J. B. Bacon. On the evening of this day there will be a public meeting at the Town Hall, when Mr. J. Barran, M.P. for Leeds, will preside, and among the speakers are Mr. H. M. Bompas, Q.C., the Revs. E. C. Pike, W. G. Lewis, and Mr. Spurgeon.—*Freeman*.

NEW WESLEYAN CHAPEL, COTHAM, BRISTOL.—This new place of worship was opened on Friday last. With its spacious schools and class-rooms, furniture, and site, it has cost 9,000*l.*, of which upwards of 6,000*l.* has been subscribed. The sum of 800*l.* is to be lent by the Wesleyan Chapel-Building Committee, leaving a sum of 2,200*l.* still to be raised. It is stated to be one of the most perfect chapels in the West of England. At the opening service the Rev. Dr. Rigg, President of the Conference, preached, and in the afternoon there was a cold collation in the large schoolroom, at which the chair was taken by Mr. E. S. Robinson, who, in the course of his opening speech, referred to the successful evangelistic efforts of the Wesleyans in England, and to the fact that in the United States the Wesleyans represented about half the religious accommodation; but taking it in the aggregate, it would be found that the Wesleyans represented no less than one-third of the whole church-going people in America. (Applause.) They might ask why it was that the denomination to which they belonged was prospering to so large an extent. The main reason was because the truths in the New Testament were taught faithfully, efficiently, and prayerfully. But he also believed that their well-ordered system of church-government went a long way in bringing about that prosperous result. He was speaking to them as an Independent. His friends had seen the weakness of Independency, and were endeavouring to some extent to overcome it by destroying isolation, and uniting the churches one with another. (Applause.) The Wesleyans had also discovered a weak point in their ranks lately, and had been remedying it at the late Conference. (Laughter.) And it was by this perception of weak points and the application of remedies that they gained more and more strength, and they learnt the lesson that Christians, whether worshipping in small houses in a country village or in a handsome structure in a populous city, had the same identity of interest, the same facilities for development here, and the same longing to sit at the right hand of the throne above. (Applause.) Various addresses were delivered, and in the evening the preacher was the Rev. Dr. Gervase Smith.

BRISTOL.—Christ Church, Snayd Park, Bristol, was opened for Divine worship on Thursday, the 12th inst., when the Rev. John Stoughton, D.D., preached in the morning and the Rev. H. Arnold Thomas, M.A., in the evening. The Revs. Urijah R. Thomas, Geo. Wood, B.A., Josh Morris, and E. J. Hartland, took part in the services. A statement from the committee was read by Dr. Stoughton, which said that the church had been erected to meet the wants of that increasing neighbourhood, a considerable number of the inhabitants being Nonconformists, and for whom there was no provision on that side of the Downs. The proposed erection met with the cordial approval of the late Rev. D. Thomas, who, shortly before his lamented death, inspected the site, with which he was greatly pleased. The committee who had undertaken the erection of the church felt that in doing so they had incurred a very heavy responsibility. If they had considered only the wants of themselves and families, a much smaller expenditure would have been sufficient, but they felt it to be their duty to provide some accommodation for those living around them, and for a still larger population in the future. The committee were considerably influenced in the choice of a design by the character of the surrounding residences. They felt that a more costly building was required than in a neighbourhood where the houses were of a less expensive description. They felt strongly that God's house must not be inferior in the quality or style of the building to the surrounding dwellings. They believed that they had been successful in erecting a building well adapted for congregational worship, and that while little had been spent on decoration it would be considered a credit to the denomination and an ornament to the neighbourhood. The cost of the church, including the purchase of the site and the cost of the internal fittings, amounted to 6,500*l.*, towards which friends in the immediate locality of different denominations had subscribed 2,300*l.* and others 495*l.*; and the committee appealed with confidence to friends to assist them in the liquidation of the debt. The other ministers who took part in the service were the Revs. E. J. Hartland, G. Wood, and J. Morris. At the luncheon held in the afternoon the chair was taken by Mr. E. S. Robinson.

CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF IRELAND.—The annual meetings of the above Union were held in

the Congregational Chapel, Sligo, on the 9th, 10th, and 11th inst., and were numerously attended by the ministers and delegates of the churches in the country, and also by deputations from England and Scotland. The meetings were inaugurated by a prayer-meeting on Monday evening, presided over by the Rev. G. Wight, of Newry, who gave a suitable address. On Tuesday morning various committees sat and transacted a large amount of business connected with the different institutions of the body. In the evening the chairman, the Rev. David Robb, of Clifton Park Church, Belfast, gave an excellent address on "Our Faith, and how to Preach it," to a large congregation. After the address was concluded, the Rev. W. Cuthbertson, B.A., of Bishop's Stortford, chairman-elect of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, and the Rev. W. W. Jubb, the newly-appointed secretary of the Irish Evangelical Society, were introduced, and received a cordial welcome, as did also the Rev. T. Brisbane, the delegate from Scotland. Each of these gentlemen acknowledged their warm reception in appropriate speeches. The whole meeting was one of interest and profit to all present. On Wednesday morning the business of the Union proper was commenced by a prayer-meeting, presided over by the Rev. T. Forsyth, of Lisburn. Afterwards new members were enrolled, various reports were presented, all of which bespoke the life and continued growth of the Congregational body in Ireland, and a paper on the subject of "Christian Giving" was read by the Rev. H. Cope, of Youghal. A crowded public meeting was held in the evening, when stirring addresses on Church life and Christian duty were delivered by the Revs. Bruce Wallace, of Kingstown; J. Brisbane, from Scotland; W. Fox, of Cork; J. White, Belfast; W. W. Jubb, of London; and W. Cuthbertson, of Bishop's Stortford. On Thursday morning, after a prayer-meeting, presided over by the Rev. T. Ashby, of Kichill, business was resumed. The Rev. Robert Sewell, of Londonderry, who has been the secretary of the Union for many years, was unanimously elected chairman for the forthcoming year. The annual meeting of the Provident Fund was held, in which it was stated that a gentleman, recently deceased, had left a reversionary interest in his will to the institution, which is likely to be about 1,000*l.* A good paper on "Temperance," or rather total abstinence, was read by the Rev. A. Morrison, of Belfast. This provoked a smart discussion, which resulted in a resolution to do all that can be done to discourage the liquor traffic and intemperate habits. Then followed an interesting paper on "The State of Religion in our Churches," by the Rev. J. White, of Belfast, urging to increased zeal and effort to spread the principles and promote the practice of religion in this country. After sundry business of an unimportant nature to the public, the session closed by the appointment of the Rev. A. Morrison, of Belfast, as the delegate to the English Congregational Union, and the Rev. J. Stirling to that of Scotland. During the sittings of the Union the ministers and delegates were hospitably entertained by the members and friends of the Sligo churches. On the Friday a steamer was chartered to convey such of the brethren as could stay up Lough Gill, to view the beautiful surrounding scenery. The day being fine this was not the least treat the friends enjoyed during their visit.

Colleges and Schools.

HACKNEY COLLEGE.

The inaugural meeting of the session was held at the College, Well-street, Hackney, last Wednesday evening. The Rev. H. J. Gamble, of Upper Clapton, presided, and amongst those present were the Principal, the Rev. Dr. McAll, Professors Turner and Christie, Revs. C. E. B. Keed, W. Tyler, J. Nunn, D. M. Jenkins, P. G. Horder, S. W. McAll, &c. After devotional exercises,

The Rev. H. J. Gamble addressed the students. The commencement of a new session of college life, he said, was always an event of considerable interest and importance. There was a gathering together of old companions of study and of those to whom everything was new and strange. Looking back at his own college days, he thought he could understand the thoughts, hopes, and fears of many of their hearts. There were such numerous topics upon which one might discourse that he had been in some perplexity in choosing his subject, but he would say a few words about the difficulties that beset the Christian ministry at the present day, and the way to deal with them. There had always been difficulties from the days of the apostles until now, and to a great extent they had been the same. But if they had to fight with old foes, they had new weapons and different armour. During the last thirty years they had really been passing through a great religious revolution, and those who were now entering upon the Christian ministry were doing so under very different circumstances from those of former generations. Scepticism had now assumed a new and startling phase. It was no longer confined to a few writers, but it had of late formed the staple of the most influential portion of their periodical literature, where almost every truth they held to be sacred had been challenged with an ability they could not but acknowledge. It had had its influence upon many minds. Men talked about protoplasm, atoms, and evolution, but with many faith in a personal God was fast dying out. If they inquired into the probable cause of this outburst of Atheism

they would find it in the spirit of democracy in England and on the Continent. Then there was intellectual pride, the reaction from a dogmatic theology. Many brilliant discoveries had been made in science which had led some to suppose that they were on the verge of discovering the great mystery of the origin of life. Others, sick at heart with the great problem of human suffering and the universal travelling in pain, were crying out, Where is now thy God? From those and other causes there had sprung up a scepticism whose cold dark shadow was settling over the sunlight of faith and hope. Another difficulty was that higher criticism to which the Scriptures were being subjected. Many of the old objections were easily set aside, but there was now an amount of learning arrayed against the old theology which was not to be disposed of by the dogmatic tone which some adopted. The rules of criticism might be fairly applied to the sacred writings, and many discrepancies had been brought to light. The fact that a new translation of the Bible had been called for showed a distrust in the present version, and fresh light had been thrown upon the sacred Book by that retranslation. Was Moses the sole author of Genesis? What was the prophetic worth of the Book of Daniel? Was the Gospel of John the product of his pen? Those and other questions were of far greater importance than many might imagine, because serious consequences would depend upon the answers. There were ingenious efforts made to eliminate the miraculous from the teaching of Scripture, and the Gospel narrative had been attacked, and they were asked to treat the resurrection of Christ and miracles as mere delusions. A growing spirit of indifference to religion had been the result. They were mistaken if they thought that statements from the pulpit passed unchallenged from the pew. Amongst those who heard them there was a restlessness, a critical spirit, and a diversity of thought which every minister must be conscious of. There were magazines and books explanatory of all, and though there was too much of that "little learning" which was a dangerous thing, and which gave itself such great pretensions, there was also an impatience of dogmatic assurance, of anecdotes of very doubtful origin, and of exaggerations of evangelicalism which could not be found in the Gospels. There was a great multitude who cared for none of those things, and who sought for nothing better than material good, and who were saying, Let us crown ourselves with roses before they are withered, for to-morrow we die. How were they to deal with those difficulties, for they must be dealt with? They could not deliver learned lectures from the pulpit on the atheistic objections, but they could do something to build up their hearers. They could teach the personality of God, and they could set the argument from design simply and intelligently before them. They could point out that science had been too confident in its conclusions. It ought not to be difficult for them to show that evolution required intelligence to superintend it, and that if it was a truth it was only a portion of the truth, and did not account for the existence of life. All that might be done without any pretence or sneers at science and philosophy, and without assuming the air of a controversialist. The young men who were being trained for the ministry would have to do that. Atheism could not stand the intelligent arguments that could be brought against it. He believed that not a few who had embraced it had begun to recoil from the abyss which it presented. As to what was termed the higher criticism, they had no right to complain that the Bible was subjected to criticism, whatever exception they took to the dogmatism of many of its critics. Questions had been raised as to the age and historical credibility of those books. In dealing with those objections they were not to suppose that, though a difficulty had not been cleared up, it never would be. There would probably be very great results from the version of the books of the old Testament by Dr. Guisburg. Great harm had been done by many ministers who failed to observe the caution, "Wait," and who startled their hearers with statements which they afterwards found to be unfounded. They could not deny that it was possible that some interpolations might have crept into the sacred books, and some would even make the admission that there had been a re-editing of certain books. When they had admitted all that and even more, What then? he asked. There might be many things in the Bible that they could not explain, but they ought to know a great deal more than they did before they charged the sacred writers with error. If in matters of minor detail there were discrepancies, they had the right to insist that if the Bible be taken in detail it also be taken as a whole, and then they would see that its unity proclaimed it to be Divine, and that God spake to them in its prophetic books, in its psalms, and gospels, and epistles. The argument for its authority was the spirit that breathed through it, not the infallibility of every word, but the great truths which it revealed with regard to the spiritual life, to Christ, and immortality. If they did not find the proofs of its inspiration there, they would not find them anywhere. It would be as if in contemplating some marble statue they could not find therein the traces of the master's hand, but sought them in the pedestal on which it stood. The greatest question was that which related to the miraculous, and especially as to the resurrection of Christ. Belief in the resurrection sustained the apostles in their mission and Christian work. But they were mistaken, it was said, and their faith did

not make the resurrection a fact. If the witnesses of the resurrection consisted of a few persons, and those of doubtful character, there might be plausibility in that objection. But when they considered to how many their Lord showed Himself they had testimony too powerful to be set aside. Nor could they separate the Gospel from the resurrection. Paul told them if Christ rose not their faith was vain. A man might well ask what there was in Christianity if Christ rose not. Beautiful morality it might be said. But morality itself would not attract hearers. The power of Christian morals depended upon a living Christ. The Sermon on the Mount was beautiful and true, but it was when they saw it in the light of Christ that the dead letter was changed to the quickening spirit. What authority could Christ have if, when He said that He would rise from the dead, He did not rise? If He pretended to appear to His disciples, and did not? The resurrection had been the great motive power of the Christian Church, and if Christ did not rise "they had killed the fairest of earthly flowers at the root," they had torn up the rock and destroyed the very foundations of their faith. The other difficulty must be met in a different way—by a clear and emphatic statement of the truth. It was the preaching of Whitfield and Wesley that prevented evangelical religion from dying out, and carried it forward, until within the last thirty years, when it received a check. The growth of Rationalism and Ritualism and the spirit of the age were unfavourable to it. What were the Evangelicals to do? First of all they might well consider whether narrowness of spirit, gloomy views of life, and sensational appeals to the passions had not had something to do with that decay; and, if so, whether evangelical preaching might not be made broader and more human, might not use more the language of common life. There was some reason for the aversion of men of intellect now, as there was when Foster wrote his essay, which might well be re-perused at the present time. He had asked a member of a Congregational church to give him his impressions about preaching, and the substance of what he wrote amounted to this, that what the average hearer wanted was two things, the quickening of his emotional nature, and how to embody his emotion in a practical form. If they were to gain any hold upon their audience, there must be a substratum of sound common-sense in their discourses. But then it should not be cold and hard, but must address itself to the conscience as well as to the intellect. Men's consciences seemed to have been deadened, and some ministers were apt to think that the arrows of truth which would once have pierced now rebounded. Men now laughed where before they would have wept, and scoffed where once their faith was as a little child's. They must not confine themselves to one style or mode of address, but sometimes reason and at others beseech. Their sermons must be to some of their hearers what the dew was to the grass, and to others what the sun was to the fruit, and to others what the hammer was to the rock, and to others as fire to the stubble. Nothing must make them depart from the simple preaching of the Gospel. And they must remember that they could only receive power when the Holy Ghost had come upon them. The training given in such an institution as that was essential to those who were going into the ministry. The time spent in preparation was too short, but if it were far longer the great thing needed would still be the power of the Holy Ghost, for if they had not that they were nothing. They were face to face with scepticism, indifference, and worldliness. Whether those were the last days or not, there were scoffers, and thousands of eager hands prepared to seize the ark of God. They must be loyal to the truth, remembering that the battle was the Lord's. For the encouragement of his younger brethren, for whom his remarks had been meant, he would say that those amongst themselves who were growing old in the ministry had no doubt as to the truth of the Gospel, or of its ultimate triumph. They could lay their heads upon their dying pillows in simple faith in their Lord Jesus Christ. Their anxiety was that they who should follow them should be equally certain. If personal testimony was worth anything, the testimony of one who had been engaged in pastoral work for over thirty-six years was, that he could find no words to express the joy that work had been to him. The work had been so glorious that all the discouragement had been swallowed up in the joy it had brought. But the joy had been the joy of preaching Christ—that name which was above every name, that love which was so tender and so strong, that cross whereon the great sacrifice was offered, that resurrection from the dead which had opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers, that second coming which would make all things new. (Cheers.)

A vote of thanks to Mr. Gamble was heartily adopted on the motion of the Rev. J. Nunn, seconded by the Rev. D. M. Jenkins, and the meeting was closed with the benediction.

BRISTOL COLLEGE.

The annual conference in connection with the Baptist College, Stoke's Croft, Bristol, took place last week. On Monday there was a prayer-meeting, and on Tuesday there was a large attendance of old students from different parts of the country at the conference held under the presidency of Dr. Gotch. The Rev. G. Gould, of Norwich, read a paper upon the duties and difficulties of the Christian ministry, in view of the many scientific,

exegetical, and practical problems of the day. He claimed for the Baptist churches and their ministers a cordial agreement with evangelical truth; and yet he affirmed that they were by no means indifferent to the intellectual wants of the age. A vote of thanks to Mr. Gould was moved by the Rev. J. T. Collier, of Downton, and seconded by the Rev. R. H. Powell, of Bradford-on-Avon, and a discussion followed. After luncheon, Dr. Gotch read a paper on "The Development of the Plan of Salvation from the Fall of Man to the Coming of Christ," which led to an animated discussion. In the evening there was a well-attended public meeting in Broadmead Chapel, at which the Chairman (Dr. Gotch) stated that it was just a hundred years since Robert Hall was in the college. The Rev. G. W. Humphreys, of Wellington, gave a sketch of the proceedings of the morning conference, and addresses were delivered by the Revs. F. Trotman, of Manchester; D. Davies, of Weston; and E. G. Gange, of Broadmead Chapel. Mr. Gange complained that the best sons of the church did not come forward and offer themselves as candidates for the Christian ministry because the churches for so many years past had so scandalously paid their pastors; many of the most cultured sons of the church hung back and preferred the prospects of earning ten, twelve, or fifteen hundred pounds a year in business life to living and dying in obscure poverty on some 60*l.* or 100*l.* The remedy rested with the churches. On Wednesday the annual address to the students was delivered by the Rev. J. Clifford, M.A., of London. It was founded on Matthew vii. 28, 29, and Luke iv. 32, and laid great stress upon the fact that Christ was pre-eminently a preacher, and upon the character of that preaching Mr. Clifford dwelt with great force, and amid much other important work preaching was the main function of ministers of the Gospel. Let them, he said, preach with all their nature, and prepare their whole being for the gigantic task, making everything else subsidiary to it. In making their preparation as thorough as they could, let them never forget that the most vital element was the preparation of themselves—by cleansing their heart from all self-seeking, fame-hunting, and self-sufficiency, and the sedulous culture of a spirit of supreme love for God and man. At the subsequent annual meeting, Mr. G. H. Leonard presiding, the report was read by the Rev. R. Glover, and stated that the session commenced with seventeen students, of whom five had settled in pastorates. There had been gifts of books, &c., from Mr. Spurgeon, and a donation of 100*l.* from the Rev. J. P. Murrell, of Leicester, in recognition of the service rendered by Bristol College to himself and his two sons. The committee were considering how they could best avail themselves of the advantages of the newly-formed University College for Bristol, and in order that the way might be open for necessary changes, Mr. Bassett had resigned his position as tutor. Favourable reports were given of the proficiency of the students, and six had been admitted to the college after a satisfactory examination. The statement of the treasurer (Mr. E. S. Robinson), which was read by Mr. W. Sherring, showed that the total income for the year had been 1,756*l.*, the balance now due to the treasurer being 164*l.* The report and statement of accounts were received and adopted. Votes of thanks were passed to the officers, to Mr. Clifford for his address, and to the Baptist Fund for their grant of 200*l.* to the general fund of the college, and for their grant of 20*l.* to the library. The Rev. Dr. Gotch moved that the committee of the college be empowered to make such arrangements for the classical and mathematical instruction of the students during the present session as might be deemed desirable. The Rev. E. A. Claypole seconded the motion. After some other business the company sat down to luncheon, when a number of toasts were proposed, and various votes of thanks passed, and the chairman (Dr. Gotch) hinted that they must soon choose his successor.

MANCHESTER BAPTIST COLLEGE.

The annual meetings of this institution were well attended, and at the conference congratulatory telegrams were exchanged with the friends assembled at Bristol. A paper on "The Best Way of Preparing and Delivering a Sermon" was then read by the Rev. Henry Briggs, of Todmorden. An animated and interesting discussion followed. At the evening conference the chair was taken by the Rev. E. Parker, the president of the college, who delivered an address on "Stedfastness in the Faith." Subsequently one of the students made a presentation of plate to Mrs. Dawson, the wife of the ex-president, which was acknowledged by Mr. Dawson. Afterwards addresses were delivered by various ministers. At the annual meeting on Wednesday the Rev. H. Dowson read the report, which stated that twenty young men were on the foundation, four of whom had entered upon pastoral work, and that in consequence of offers of pecuniary help the number of students would be increased. With a view to evangelistic work chapels had been taken on rental at Reddish and Hollinwood. The report of the president as to the devotion of the students to their duties was very satisfactory, and it was stated that during the session they have had about 400 preaching engagements, involving more than 800 separate services, and these services had been rendered in about eighty different places. The assurances received as to the acceptableness of these services have been numerous and gratifying. The tutorial reports of the Rev. H. Dowson and the Rev. J. Marshall were submitted, as was also that of the

treasurer (Mr. Alderson Watson, Bradford). The treasurer said that with the ordinary subscriptions the college would be at the end of the year 300*l.* or 350*l.* behind, but, from some promises he had had, he did not believe they would be in any worse position than formerly. The usual votes of thanks were passed, and Mr. Dawson testified to the prosperous condition of the college. In the evening the Rev. J. Harvey (Bury) delivered the annual address to the students, speaking on the subject of his ministerial experience and the lessons it taught.

SPRING HILL COLLEGE.

The annual meeting of the trustees and subscribers of this college was held on the 12th inst., in the library of the college at Moseley. Mr. J. A. Cooper, chairman of the committee, presided, and in his opening remarks said that that was a purely business meeting, which would account for the somewhat meagre attendance. He thought they would find from the committee's report that the operations of the college had been conducted with the same measure of success during the past year as in former years; certainly they had suffered no interruption. During the past year some six of the pupils had left the house, and entered upon the work of the Christian ministry. Although they had lost so many during the year, they should commence the present session with an equal if not a greater number of students, and he thought they should be able to report a number which would exceed that which they had had in the house for some years past. On behalf of the committee he would say that they sincerely hoped that every student would be able to remain with them until the close of his college course. (Hear, hear.) Those who considered the matter would find that five years was not too long to devote to the work of preparation for the ministry in a day like the present. (Hear, hear.) The financial statement, presented by Mr. Keep, the treasurer, showed that the total receipts had been 3,449*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*, and the expenditure 3,983*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.*, leaving a deficit of more than 500*l.* The report of the college committee, which was then read by Mr. Edwards, the secretary, spoke in favourable terms of the health, diligence, and proficiency of the students, and stated that of the six who had left during the year, five had accepted pastorates, and that six of the nine applicants for admission had entered upon probation. The first examination for the scholarships recently established for competition amongst students on their entrance was held in September last, when the Howe Scholarship was awarded to Mr. E. W. Watson. The examination for the Hudson and Baxter Scholarships will be held in the course of a few weeks, and the committee would rejoice if amongst the students just accepted there might be found successful competitors. The Chairman moved the adoption of the report, which was seconded by Mr. Lawrence, who urged that students should not be allowed to leave the college until they had completed their course. With reference to the deficit, he thought it had arisen in a great measure owing to the widely-spread notion that the college was in such a position as to need no assistance. On the proposition of Alderman Baines, of Lincoln, seconded by Mr. W. Smith (one of the trustees), a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Keep for his services during the past year as treasurer, and he was re-elected. Professor Massie next proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. R. S. Hudson for his generous aid in various ways, to Mr. Alderman Avery for his contribution to the prize fund, and to the gentlemen who had acted as examiners to the college during the past year. The proposition was seconded by Alderman Manton, and carried. Mr. R. W. Dale moved a resolution thanking the various societies and friends who had forwarded books for distribution amongst the students, or had presented valuable works to the library; and expressing the hope of the meeting that such additions would be made to the library as would render it more worthy of the college than it was at present. He had not very much faith in the value of endowments in connection with the ordinary agencies of the Christian Church. But in connection with institutions of that sort he believed they were perfectly safe and often necessary. Endowments might take many forms. They had a considerable endowment created for them by the generosity of the founders of that institution, but those who contributed large sums towards the increase of their library would in an admirable form contribute to the endowment of the college. In an institution of that sort it seemed to him there should be a library adapted first of all to all the wants of the tutors and students who were within the walls, but he should not be satisfied with a library of that kind. That college, standing in the Midland Counties, had a relation to Congregational churches covering a very extensive area, and his own impression was that there should be a library there that former students of the college and other ministers in charge of churches throughout the neighbourhood might be able from time to time to consult. (Hear, hear.) Dr. Simon seconded the motion. On the motion of the Rev. W. F. Clarkson, seconded by the Rev. J. H. Thoms, a resolution was passed expressing deep concern on account of the deficiency reported by the treasurer, but gratification at the increase that had taken place in the number of students, and urging upon the friends in general, and the Congregational churches of the Midland Counties in particular, a larger liberality for the support of the college. A vote of thanks to the chairman was passed. This having been briefly acknowledged, the proceedings terminated.

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The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1878.

THE WEEK.

It is now unhappily a trite remark that great calamities often follow each other in rapid succession. To the horrors of the sinking of the Princess Alice succeeded on Thursday last the sudden explosion which in a moment made the coal mine at Abercarne, one of the pits belonging to the well-regulated Ebbw Vale Colliery, the living tomb of some 260 men. Happily, about eighty of the miners near the mouth of the shaft escaped. For the rest there was from the first no hope. As the mine was found to be on fire, the unhappy colliers who were at work must have been suffocated almost instantaneously. Some bodies were recovered, but no living men. To extinguish the highly inflammable gas, the pit has been flooded. Terrible was the scene at the mouth of the mine when the subterranean thunder gave warning of the catastrophe. Hundreds of relatives—women and children mainly—waited with breathless anxiety and flickering hope for tidings of those dear to them. Weeks, alas! must elapse ere the mine yields up its dead, of whom one-half were married men with families. The calamity has not the painful and dramatic interest attaching to the disaster in the Thames. But its consequences are very serious. More than 500 relatives mourn the loss of those who were so suddenly cut off from life either in its youth or prime, last Thursday, and nearly all of these are widows or orphan children. A relief fund has been promptly opened at the Mansion House, as well as locally. The few thousands thus far subscribed by the liberality of the public are quite inadequate to meet the pressing wants of the bereaved and destitute relatives, and it is to be hoped, though with faint prospect, that a surplus may remain from the Princess Alice Fund to be placed to the account of the sufferers by the South Wales explosion.

There will of course be a rigid inquiry into the cause of this deplorable event, though the circumstances do not promise a clearing up of the mystery. The mine appears to have been remarkably well managed, and careful precautions were taken to avert such catastrophes. Though the character of the coal extracted was known to be dangerous, the ventilation is said to have been nearly perfect, and the fact that there were two shafts was thought to have ensured security. If the explosion was the result of the carelessness of the miners it can never be clearly proved, and the secret will die with the victims of the disaster.

At length the prolonged excitement engendered by the fearful catastrophe in the Thames has begun to abate, though public sympathy with the sufferers is happily still well sustained; the Mansion House Fund having reached the handsome total of 18,000*l*. The loss of life far exceeds the earlier estimates. Not less than 650 bodies have been found, and 130 persons are known to have been rescued. But as there is reason to fear that more than 800 persons were on board, the Princess Alice when she was sunk off Tripcock Point, many of the lost have yet to be accounted for. The Mansion House Committee have passed a cordial and well-deserved vote of thanks to all engaged in the arduous task of recovering and identifying the dead and relieving the sufferings of the survivors. A searching inquiry into the circumstances of the collision is now proceeding, and already some startling revelations have been made as to the culpable negligence of those who were responsible for the safety of the ill-fated vessel—such as that she was piloted from Gravesend on the fatal evening by an inexperienced seaman, hired for the day by the regular steersman, and that no regular look-out was kept on board.

The daily telegrams from the East must be very unpleasant reading alike to the Premier at

Hughenden, and to the Foreign Minister at Dieppe. The two British Plenipotentiaries, who were received with such a burst of organised Jingo enthusiasm on their return from Berlin, see their ingenious handiwork falling to pieces. They may, perhaps, behold without profound regret the difficulties that accumulate in the path of the Austrian armies in Bosnia and Herzegovina, although Lord Salisbury himself proposed at Berlin that that Power should be authorised to "occupy" the two provinces. But the request of Prince Bismarck that the signatory Powers should send an identical Note to Constantinople requiring the Sultan to carry out without delay the provisions of the Berlin Treaty, touches them more closely. Our Cabinet has, without doubt, declined to be a party to such action, and we are now told that the German Chancellor proposes to renew the request, though he can hardly be sanguine of success. If Turkey is indeed ready to listen to English remonstrances, it is strange that she has peremptorily refused to entertain the question of a rectification of the Greek frontier as recommended by the Congress; that she takes no steps to induce the Albanians—whom Dr. Virchow, of Berlin, seems to regard as the superior race in South-Eastern Europe—to refrain from covert hostilities against the Austrians in Bosnia, and to give up to Montenegro the territory ceded by the Congress; and that she declines to make any substantial concession to the Cretans. The *non possumus* of the Porte, and the Austrian reverses in Bosnia, are producing their natural effect at St. Petersburg. The retirement of Russian troops from San Stefano and elsewhere has been arrested, and a subsidy is said to have been granted to Serbia by the Czar to enable that restless little State to keep up its armaments.

The news from Bosnia is not decisive. During the past week there has been a lull in the campaign carried on by Austria against the insurgent Mussulmans, who, it is to be noted, wield such great resources in artillery and guns as could only have been supplied by the Porte, with whom the Vienna Cabinet is ostensibly at amity. No convention between the two Governments has been concluded, nor is likely to be signed. The immense reinforcements which the Austrian authorities have sent to Bosnia and Herzegovina indicate a resolution to crush the insurgents before the wet season sets in, and to conquer these provinces at all costs. Offensive operations have been resumed on the Save, and town after town in the Eastern districts—in which abundant supplies of arms and ammunition are found—has been captured by the invaders. General Philippovich, who must now be able to gauge the nature and extent of the task before him, hopes, it is said, to bring the campaign to a triumphant close by the end of next month.

Our "spirited foreign policy," which, when the Congress closed, was to regulate with a high hand all the unsettled questions left open by the war, is almost played out. British influence is everywhere feeble—even at Constantinople. Although the proposed reforms in Asia Minor with a view to "guarantee to the inhabitants tolerable security of life and property, and protect them against the exactions of ruthless tax-gatherers," have been reduced to a minimum, the Sultan declines to look at them. That sovereign has become jealous and suspicious. He fears to become a mere puppet in English hands, and although he has recalled Midhat Pasha, that able Turkish statesman is not to be allowed to come nearer than Crete. But the Sultan is quite ready to proclaim a new charter with unlimited concessions—the usual device—for the entire population of his Empire, which will of course not be worth the paper on which it is written. The truth seems to be that the Porte urgently wants pecuniary help, which our Government fear to give. "No money, no concessions"—is the motto of the hungry pashas who surround the Sultan's palace and look with dismay into the empty treasury. There is thus, as was long since predicted, a dead-lock at Constantinople which Sir Austen Layard is

powerless to remedy, albeit the Turkish Empire is visibly crumbling to pieces. So far as appearances go, the Anglo-Turkish Convention is likely to become a dead letter, and even Cyprus, that glorious acquisition in the Mediterranean, turns out to be a pestiferous imposture.

The anti-Socialist Bill is now under discussion in the German Parliament. In the first debate on Monday, the Government did no show to advantage in the person of Count Stolberg, who appeared as the official champion of the measure. Two notable speeches were made—one by Herr Reichensperger, who, on behalf of the Ultramontanes, opposed the bill, though willing to accept a greatly modified measure; the other by Herr Bebel, who complained of the gross misrepresentation of the opinions of the party he supports, and accused the Government of having in times past coquetted with the Socialists for political reasons. These accusations have brought Prince Bismarck into the tribune. Yesterday the German Chancellor denied that he had ever entered into a pact with the Social Democrats, or had had intimate relations with their leader Lassalle, and he entreated the Assembly to give to the Government the means of protecting the Emperor and his German countrymen against the tyranny "of such a company of bandits." Eventually a large majority decided that the bill should be referred to a committee of twenty-one members, by whom it is expected to be considerably modified by restricting its operation, and providing better guarantees.

We would call attention to a quotation from a recent article in the *Scotsman* relative to the drift of public opinion as manifested in the recent bye elections. Since the beginning of the present year there have been twenty contests, one of which—that of Belfast—was between two Tories. In the other nineteen there voted in the aggregate 43,116 for the Liberal candidates and 35,700 for their opponents. We hope the result of the Truro election will increase this disparity. Notwithstanding the present lull in domestic politics, the news from South-Eastern Europe is, week by week, lowering the prestige of Lord Beaconsfield's administration, and thereby diminishing the chances of an early dissolution. Before Christmas, apparently, the "peace with honour" claim put forward on behalf of the Government will have become a mockery, in spite of sundry carving-knifemakers of Sheffield.

The Trades Union Congress which held its annual session last week at Bristol showed no signs of any abatement in the strength and numbers of these powerful organisations of the industrial classes, and the deliberations on the whole do credit to the intelligence and comparative restraint of the members of this working men's parliament. One of the conspicuous features of the congress was the appearance on its platform of Mr. John Morley, the editor of the *Fortnightly Review*, who gave an address in favour of restricting production, especially in respect to the cotton manufacture of Lancashire. Mr. Morley contends that short time is a better remedy for the continued depression of that branch of industry than a reduction of the operatives' wages. Still the Lancashire operatives draw higher wages than the cotton hands of Massachusetts. The views defended in his paper have given rise to a keen controversy, which has hardly yet ceased. Undoubtedly the recent reduction of wages in North-West Lancashire has not been followed by a revival of trade, and there are no adequate markets to absorb the produce of the multitudinous cotton mills of the manufacturing districts. But half-time would entail upon the mill-owners serious disadvantages, if not involve them in ruinous losses. The fact remains that both masters and men suffer, and that in face of foreign competition, especially in India, there is small prospect of a return of prosperity. Probably the restricted supply which Mr. Morley advocates will, if there should not soon be a favourable reaction, gradually ensure the closing of superfluous and unprofitable mills.

PRINCE BISMARCK.

The Paris correspondent of the *Times* writes that on July 8 Professor Liebreich, the distinguished savant, to whom suffering humanity owes the medical use of chloral, offered to introduce him to Dr. Virchow. The correspondent accepted the offer—first, because he should thus make the acquaintance of Dr. Virchow; and, secondly, because it was an opportunity of hearing from the mouth of one of Prince Bismarck's most eloquent and resolute adversaries the criticisms passed on the Chancellor by the German Opposition. "It was the counterpart (he says) "of my interview with the Prince on July 2, which I needed to correct my first impressions, and judge the Chancellor with perfect impartiality." Before describing the interview with Dr. Virchow, the correspondent reverting to Prince Bismarck, says:—

It is really difficult not to be struck by the contrast existing between Prince Bismarck's terrible reputation and the patriarchal picture represented by the family of which he is the head when he returns home to rest from the ardent struggle in which he has so long been engaged. Nothing is more simple and touching than the respectful and silent enthusiasm with which his wife and children surround him, and the devotedness they show to him. In his family circle he lets himself be governed by their anxious tenderness. When he leaves the table his wife or son brings him his long clay pipe and lights it for him. This first pipe smoked, a second all ready is handed to him, and this is afterwards gently taken from him without a third being brought. The Prince yields to this silent tyranny, which relieves him of a portion of his personal cares. His son Herbert told me—"I have put my father to bed, for he, too, you see, ends by being tired." He is treated, indeed, by his family as a demigod, and cared for as an infant. On hearing him chat with his family one is struck by the clearness with which he expresses himself, the grace with which he stoops to familiarity, and also by the feeling of irresistible force which he inspires, so that when once he has said anything it becomes law. Even when he unbends the most naturally you are conscious that he has only to clinch his fingers to crush an adversary, and will do it without hesitation if it is a question of removing an obstacle or getting rid of an adversary.

I heard Prince Bismarck say, incidentally, on July 2, that nowadays, with the telegraph available, a Congress ought not to last more than a month. From that moment I could predict with certainty that the Congress, having commenced on June 13, would finish by July 13. The event justified my announcement, and at the same time convinced me that he had such consciousness of his strong will that no heedless word escaped his lips. It has often been remarked that Prince Bismarck hesitates for a word and sometimes stops several seconds to discover it, in which case the word is of mathematical precision and goes straight at the mark. This slowness of speech has been ascribed to a difficulty of expressing himself, but I should rather attribute it to a habit which has become a second nature. He does not utter a word without having weighed its effect, and when he pauses it is to consider the expression which suggests itself to him, that he may use it only after foreseeing all possible consequences. He does not, as has been said, despise men in general, but he does not believe in great men. He thinks the political reputations which rise over the heads of ordinary mortals result from chance and unforeseen circumstances, and he has a sceptical smile whenever one of these names is pronounced before him. He is, perhaps, the only man living who exceeds his colossal fame, but he exceeds it by his defects as well as by his excellences. He begins to be immense at the point where he ceases to be great, and his disdain for others is mingled with a strong dose of self-esteem. He has a natural pride which renders him indifferent to praise and irritated at the slightest criticism. He has such an opinion of his own infallibility that he deems eulogy an impertinence and censure a blasphemy. He delights in conflicts which always end in victory, but the least rebuff seems to him a blunder committed by destiny, and he will never look at home for the real cause of it. He speaks of others with caution and circumspection; not out of indulgence, but because he thinks that every opinion he passes upon them is an historical judgment, and that he himself has a wonderful virtue without which he would have been the most dangerous of men. He does not say, indeed, all he thinks, but what he does say he says bluntly, with the indifference of a man who considers himself strong enough not to conceal his ideas. He scorns pettiness. He has great qualities, and defects on the same scale as his qualities. He does not forgive those who try to lessen him in the eyes of history. He has not yet forgiven Prince Gortschakoff for thinking him capable in 1875 of concurring in the plans conceived by the Prussian military authorities against France. It is now generally believed, indeed, that Bismarck was the declared enemy of that scheme of unjustifiable aggression. It is said that, seeing himself on the point of being overpowered, and being anxious at all cost to save Germany, the Emperor, and himself from such a step, M. Radowicz by his order had the memorable conversation, in which he unveiled the projects of the military party. That conversation was the starting-point of European investigations, and led to Lord Derby's declaration, Prince Gortschakoff's circular, and the abandonment of all aggressive designs in Germany. M. Radowicz, as all acquainted with Prince Bismarck must see, would not occupy his present post if he had not acted under his instructions, and the episode is as honourable to the Chancellor as to the diplomatist who thus implicitly obeyed him. Bismarck, however, is jealous not only of his own, but of his country's reputation, and denies that such a plan was ever conceived.

After referring to the memorable scene between the Prince, M. Thiers, and M. Jules Favre before the conclusion of the Franco-German Treaty, the correspondent speaks of his visit to Dr. Virchow. The first room he passed through contained a collection of human bones, systematically arranged in cases. The second room was like a miniature Valley

of Jehoshaphat at the moment of the first blast of the resurrection trumpet:—

There were skeletons erect, curved, seated, leaning like men surprised in their sleep and stretching themselves before wholly waking. Bones of every kind covered tables, shelves, and chairs, and to find a seat chairs had to be cleared of the human remains which crowded them. Numberless skulls crowned this charming collection, grinning at the shapeless fragments scattered over furniture and floor. The man who advanced towards me was dressed like an antiquary busied in arranging his collection; his head rather thin and bony; hair and beard short and grey; forehead bronzed, rather furrowed, projecting in front and slightly compressed at the sides; veins visible in the temples; eyes small and retreating, mouth resolute, nose sharp and restless; hands bronzed, agile, and thin, denoting determination, energy, and dexterity. The conversation turned immediately on the Congress then sitting. We discussed the rivalries of the small nationalities disputing supremacy in European Turkey. Dr. Virchow suddenly rose. "See," he said, "the really superior race in those countries. Look at these," and he put into my hands three skulls; "one of your colleagues sent me the first, and I have since procured the other two. They are the craniums of Albanians murdered by Turks. Look at them. Are they not fine?" On receiving the first I thought it was an exceptional one, but they are all like that, these Albanian skulls. "There is the race superior by far to all others." Dr. Virchow, with enthusiastic tenderness and a countenance full of affection, caressed the cranium he held on his knees; then, rising, carefully replaced it on the ground, and began to speak rapidly and picturesquely on the various populations of European Turkey, backing up every opinion by the production of skulls—Montenegrin, Bosnian, Dalmatian, Servian, Bulgarian, Roumanian, Turkish, and Hungarian. His proofs gradually accumulated, and at last he completed his demonstrations by a perfect circle of skulls of different dimensions, more or less marked by swords or firearms. It was the Congress strangely judged from the cranial point of view. He constantly reverted, however, to his Albanian skulls, and in speaking of them stooped to touch them with the finger, whereas he scornfully indicated the others with his foot; and I must add that Count Andrassy would not have been flattered had he known the rank assigned by Dr. Virchow to the Magyar. In time the correspondent succeeded in leading the conversation to domestic politics. Dr. Virchow having restored the skulls to their places, said:—

What we reproach the Chancellor with is with wanting to impersonate all Germany, and to carry out, not a German policy, but a Bismarckian policy. The great object of all his endeavours is to remain at the head of affairs. He creates a policy of which he is the principal aim, and that is why we do not know whither he will lead us. Now, when a man pursues a goal beyond himself he has a far-sighted policy; but when he pursues a personal policy he lives from hand-to-mouth, and changes his projects according to his own convenience. Bismarck has given us glory, but he has deprived us of liberty without giving us prosperity. He is a man who knows Europe, but does not know Germany. He treats us as if he had conquered us. He does not consider our legitimate pride, or understand that we are as much interested as himself in our country's politics. He has coquetted (*gébuhl*) with all parties and deserted all. I am not his enemy. I am the opponent of his despotic policy, the opponent of his insinuations in representing the Liberal party as the accomplice of Socialism, whereas they are its most decided adversaries. Bismarck's policy has made Germany greater, but he will never carry on a policy rendering her freer or happier. . . . Bismarck's personality has been too prominent. We have eminent economists, but they cannot realise their ideas because Bismarck is supreme there as everywhere else. He has tried a host of taxes—on beer, on tobacco, and so on, all which have yielded nothing, and we are the sufferers. We do not want him to retire. Germany owes much to him. But we want to have a little hand in our own destinies, and to discuss our own interests. We do not want a man who overthrows us every time we attempt to resist him.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

The news of the intended transfer of the Austrian army of occupation from Serajevo to Brod caused some disturbance on the Vienna Bourse on Friday. It is stated, however, that only a portion of the headquarters will be removed, and that General Philippovitch will remain at Serajevo. Despatches from Belgrade accuse the Austrians of excessive severities at Serajevo. The Austrian general is charged with having ordered executions by wholesale, and amongst the victims are a number of Servians whose innocence is warmly vindicated by their countrymen. A despatch from Pesth says that much depression is felt there at the determined resistance of the insurgents. There is hardly a single family in Pesth which has not some members in Bosnia, and the list of killed and wounded grows every day. "Quite heartrending scenes take place daily on the Danube quays, whence troops are continually departing for the front."

It is stated from Constantinople that England has declined to adhere to Germany's proposal for addressing a collective remonstrance to the Porte, on the strength of a report from Sir Austen Layard. This report, it is said, shows that the Porte was firmly resolved to evacuate the fortresses, and adduces as a proof of Turkey's intentions to execute the Berlin Treaty the fact of her having sent Mehmet Ali Pasha to settle the difficulties relating to the Servian and Montenegrin frontiers. The report further states that the Congress having merely advised a cession of territory to Greece, the Porte considers it has a right to await the mediation of the Powers before taking a final decision. According to advices from Rome it is understood that England having refused to adhere to the proposal of Germany, and Italy

having only promised her adhesion in the event of the Powers being unanimous on the question of taking joint action in behalf of Greece, Germany has decided to defer making any definite proposition in the matter for the present. A further despatch from Constantinople says that the refusal of the British Government to entertain the proposal of Germany that the Powers should address a collective remonstrance to the Porte was given prior to the receipt of the Greek Circular demanding the mediation of the Powers. England has not yet declined the proposal for collective mediation on the Greek question, although it is probable that she will do so. Negotiations on the subject continue between the Powers, and also upon the question whether mediation should be collective, simultaneous, or independent.

Everything is reported to be ready in Greece for the mobilisation of 130,000 men in case of war, and measures have been taken for the expedition of 100,000 across the frontier. The insufficiency of the artillery has been remedied by the purchase of six Krupp and four Italian batteries, so that, including the ten batteries bought some time ago, and the fifty guns originally in possession of the Greek army, a park of 170 pieces can be formed. Naval preparations are likewise being actively carried on. The Greeks own two Thornycroft torpedo boats, and have lately ordered two more, besides 100 torpedoes on the Whitehead system. Finally, the National Guard has just been provided with breechloading rifles, and large quantities of ammunition have been purchased in Italy.

In reply to the request of a deputation of Epirote and Thessalonian refugees—to forward petitions to Her Majesty the Queen, beseeching England's intervention to hasten the liberation of Epirus and Thessaly, in conformity with the recommendations of the Congress—the British Minister at Athens has referred the deputation to Sir A. H. Layard, at Constantinople, but they declined this alternative.

A despatch is stated to have been sent by the Cretan chieftains to the foreign consuls at Canea positively refusing to enter into any arrangement with Ahmed Mukhtar Pasha, and rejecting every proposal of the Porte.

Up to the present 46,000 Russian troops have embarked for Russia. The total number to return is 80,000. In addition to the army of occupation of 50,000 men sanctioned by the Treaty of Berlin, the Russians will probably retain another 60,000 men in Roumelia, in the Enos and Rhodope districts, alleging as a reason either the indemnity question, or the arrangement with the Porte for the suppression of the Rhodope insurrection.

General Todleben has had a farewell interview with the Sultan, and will shortly leave for Rodosto, whither the Muscovite headquarters, it is said, are to be transferred about the 19th instant. Transports of Russian troops are leaving San Stefano daily.

A Constantinople telegram says as soon as the Russians have delivered to the Turks the lines of Tchekmedje, Tchataldja, and Derkos, Baker Pasha will complete the defensive works on these lines, and will commence the construction of another line near the city.

The Porte, through Safvet Pasha, has renewed its promise to carry out the scheme of reforms in Asia, drawn up by the British Ambassadors. The Turkish Minister, however, at the same time intimated that it required the means to enable it to carry out its undertaking, and asked for an advance of 6,000,000*l.* of the surplus revenue accruing to the Porte from Cyprus, a request with which, Sir Austen Layard pointed out, it was impossible to comply, as the sanction of the English Parliament would be necessary for such an advance.

The policy of the English Government with regard to Asia Minor, according to the *Times* Constantinople correspondent, is to respect scrupulously the sovereignty of the Sultan, and to recommend merely a minimum of reform which shall guarantee to the inhabitants tolerable security of life and property, and protect them against the exactions of ruthless tax-gatherers. This minimum is to be obtained by the voluntary action of the Sultan and his Government, and no means stronger than moral pressure are to be employed. The correspondent goes on to speak in a somewhat gloomy tone as to the chances of the proposed reforms. The Sultan, he declares, is jealous of his authority, and is suspicious about the intentions of England. That Asia Minor should pass under English rule, and that he himself should become a mere puppet in English hands, are what he is now beginning to be apprehensive of. His mood, it is added, is encouraged by some of those around him, and their whispers are poured into an ear already well disposed to receive them. The correspondent adds:—

The task of procuring the necessary reforms has been rendered much more difficult by the growing conviction that English co-operation will not assume the form of pecuniary assistance. Those who are opposed to reform urge that nothing can be done without money, and that, if England does not lend a helping hand in this matter, her good advice is of no use, and her co-operation simply interference. Certainly no real reforms can be effected without considerable outlay, and it is difficult to imagine how the necessary amount can be obtained from ordinary sources. Many people here consider the British scheme of reform miserably insufficient, and think that England ought to take the administration of Asia Minor into her own hands at once. It is urged, too, that the Empire at this moment threatens to crumble to pieces; that the only cohesive force is the authority and prestige of the Sultan; that the diminution of this force would

increase the danger of complete disintegration; and that the disastrous effect of precipitate violent action is shown by recent events in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Speculating on the likelihood of Midhat Pasha's return to Constantinople, the correspondent of the *Times* there says that he can state confidently that the Sultan still regards Midhat as a dangerous man, who seeks to diminish the Imperial power to his own advantage, and who has never shown himself to be a great statesman. It is, however, by no means impossible that he may be recalled, not to fill the post of Grand Vizier, but to employ his great administrative capacity as Governor-General of Asia Minor.

The Czar arrived at Yalta on Saturday afternoon. His Majesty passed through Sebastopol on Saturday morning, where he inspected the troops who had returned from Turkey.

The *Fanfulla* of Rome affirms it has knowledge of a new Treaty having been agreed upon between England and the Porte, in virtue of which Egypt is placed under the protection of England, the English Government to allow the Khedive a handsome income, and to name a mixed Anglo-French Commission for the administration of Egyptian finances. The *Fanfulla* further states that M. Waddington was opposed to this arrangement, but yielded to the pressure put upon him by Lord Salisbury, who also insisted upon France occupying Tunis.

PUBLIC OPINION ON THE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

(From the *Scotsman*.)

"We are not ourselves sanguine enough to expect an immediate recovery of wisdom by the English middle-class public on the subject of Eastern politics," writes the *Spectator*. But suppose there has been no loss of wisdom by the middle-class people on the subject of Eastern politics, what then? No doubt the question seems foolish to people who think and speak of London clubs and London mobs as the English public. But there is another test. It will not be denied that the excitement in London has been greatest this year. It has been said that, while the nation was pretty evenly balanced up to the end of last year, the Salisbury Circular sent it over with a rush to the side of the Government. Well, there are means of testing the accuracy of this statement. Look at the following table of the numbers of electors who have voted on each side at elections during this year:—

Constituency.	Liberal Votes.	Tory Votes.
Greenock	3,939	2,124
Leith	4,929	1,788
Perth	2,206	855
Perthshire	2,255	2,439
Cirencester	351	698
Hereford	1,066	1,110
Worcester	2,155	2,609
Northumberland (S.) ..	2,912	2,912
Tamworth	1,186	607
Downshire	4,701	6,076
Oxford University	989	2,687
Reading	2,223	1,565
Southampton	2,304	2,552
Rochester	1,284	1,004
Middlesbrough	5,307	2,415
Flint Burghs	1,636	1,511
Haddington Burghs ..	881	651
Newcastle-under-Lyme ..	1,330	990
Argyleshire	1,462	1,107
Total	43,116	35,700

Here are nineteen contested elections, and they show a majority of 7,416 votes against the Eastern policy of the Government. There was one other contest which is omitted from the list—that for Belfast. It was, however, between two Tories, and turned entirely upon personal claims, so that it has no bearing whatever on the question at issue.

It must be borne in mind that the assumption of the London newspapers is, not that parties are pretty nearly balanced, but that a "vast" majority, "the" majority, an "overwhelming" majority of the people of the country are or have been in favour of the policy of the Government. The evidence is all against this assertion. The people are not in favour of the policy of the Government, and that fact destroys most of the theories, and makes useless most of the advice with which our contemporaries favour us. It would be difficult to imagine more gratifying evidence of the extent to which the education of Liberal principles has influenced the country than the proof which the elections afford that the people have not lost their heads in a warlike whirl. They are wiser now than they were, which means that they have availed themselves of the abundant means of information that have been placed at their disposal as a result of Liberal legislation. If London is less wise, the reason is not far to seek while theories which are baseless are made to serve in place of sound information. The truth is, however, that London is so vast that the rowdy and the superficial, found more or less in every community, are there able to get together and make a noise. As they are always the brassiest throated and the most arrogant they make themselves heard above the voices of quieter people who think for themselves and have no sympathy with those who misrepresent them. It may be questioned whether, if there were a general election to-morrow, London as a whole would not declare against the Government. But whether that be the case or not—and possibly it

may not, considering how much bad teaching the Londoners get—it is certain the country as a whole has never become foolish on the subject of Eastern politics.

PUBLIC MEN ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

Sir Wilfrid Lawson, M.P., and Mr. Charles Howard, M.P., spoke at the annual meeting of the East Cumberland Liberal Association at Carlisle on Wednesday. Mr. Howard said that during the past session the House of Commons had been treated with studied neglect and evasion by the Government. The time had come, he thought, when the constituencies should declare that they are content to be governed by the Queen and constitutional authority, but that they do not wish to be misled by Oriental fancies and theories of personal government. Sir Wilfrid Lawson did not believe that we should have a dissolution this autumn. His notion was that Lord Beaconsfield was far too shrewd a man when he had a majority of 145 in the House of Commons to dissolve. We were told that we had got peace with honour. It was not peace with honour that we had got, but something else. When Lord Beaconsfield came home with the Marquis of Salisbury they were made Knights of the Garter; and the gentlemen who went with them were made K.C.B.'s, or something of that sort. Now, he thought a little mistake had been made—a mistake of a single letter. What we had got was not peace with honour, but peace with honours. (Cheers and laughter.) Mr. Howard had touched on all this, and he quite agreed with him that the day would come when the glare and the glitter of these visionary schemes would die away, and when the people of England would see what fools they had been made by the Government of this country. (Cheers.) It was a very wonderful Government we had got. They had done wonderful things. They had made the Queen an Empress, they had made Mr. Disraeli an earl, and they had made four bishops in the last session of Parliament. (A Voice: "Who will have to pay for them?") Well, he believed that a benevolent people would have to pay for them. The House of Commons made them, but the people would pay for them; it was like the bridge that was built by subscription, and inscribed with these words:—

Mr. Jones of his great bounty,
Built this bridge at the expense of the county.
(Laughter.) When they looked over the proceedings of the Government calmly and carefully they would find that they were paying very dearly for their whistle.

Mr. Newdegate, responding for the House of Commons at the Warwickshire Agricultural Society's dinner at Coventry, said he was their old watchman who kept the beacon—not the one in Buckinghamshire—and it had been his function to blow his horn and flare up whenever he saw danger threatening. It had been said that the centre of the empire was to be shifted, but he had no opinion of England being left out in the cold. (Cheers.) Rome was nearer to Constantinople than London, but ever after Valens was sent to Constantinople it became a valetudinarian Empire. (Laughter.) England would never consent that the Empire of England should quit its ancient quarters, and personally he believed a temperate climate kept the brains cool, and that there was a strength in the West that could never be supplied by the East. (Cheers.)

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

An active canvass is being carried on at Truro, where the vacancy in the representation will be filled up in a few days. There is good reason to hope for the success of Mr. Bridges-Willyams, the Liberal candidate.

Great pressure is being brought to bear upon Mr. Plimsoil by the Liberals of Derby to induce him to stand again. Should he not do so, Mr. E. S. Ellis, the chairman of the Midland Railway Company, will be brought forward as the second Liberal candidate for the borough.

The Executive of the Home Rule Confederation has requested the Irish electors of Sheffield to take action in view of the candidature of Mr. Waddy, Q.C., M.P., for the borough. Mr. Waddy is therefore to be requested by the local Home Rule Committee to state his views on the Home Rule question, and to explain the course pursued by him on Mr. O'Connor Power's petition for the release of the Fenian prisoners.

It is possible that the second Liberal candidate for Bolton will be Mr. Thomas Barnes, its former member, who has promised to stand again should his health greatly improve.

It is expected that the Hon. Cecil Ashley, the fourth son of the Earl of Shaftesbury, will stand for Berwick-on-Tweed in conjunction with the present Liberal representative, Sir D. C. Marjoribanks, having received an invitation to that effect.

The electors of Northampton are losing no time in preparing to come to a decision with regard to the candidates to whom they will give their best support at the next election. Last week Mr. John Hughes, a member of the Common Council of the City of London, met with a very cordial reception from two crowded audiences in the Town Hall. On the first occasion, with only six of a contrary opinion, he was with some enthusiasm pronounced to be "a fit and proper person" to represent the borough in Parliament. On the second evening, when the attendance was still more numerous,

without a dissenting voice Mr. Hughes was unanimously accepted as the Independent Radical candidate. He absolutely refused to coalesce either directly or indirectly with any candidate before the electors, or with any existing section of political parties, but determined to stand alone. A resolution was carried in favour of "a test ballot" in respect to the four Liberal candidates now before the borough for the purpose of selecting the two who has the highest number of votes.

On Monday evening Mr. N. P. Downing, who is being brought out by a section of the Liberals and the temperance party in opposition to Mr. Norwood, one of the Liberal members for Hull, addressed a large meeting on the Eastern Question and the Government policy, and a resolution was passed, amid considerable opposition, recommending him to the consideration of the Liberal Association in the selection of candidates.

Mr. Donald Currie has formally consented to be the Liberal candidate for Perthshire at the next election.

Lord Dalrymple, the eldest son of the Earl of Stair, has consented to contest the county of Wigtown in the Liberal interest at the next election.

LITERARY ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Miss Braddon has just returned from Brittany, where she has completed a new annual for the coming Christmas, upon lines once made familiar by the late Charles Dickens.

There is in the press a book entitled "Child Life in Japan," by Mrs. M. Chaplin Ayrton, with several full-page illustrations, drawn and engraved by Japanese artists.

Mr. F. E. Longley has in the press the life of John B. Gough, the celebrated temperance orator, who has recently arrived in England.

"Le Gouvernement de M. Thiers" is the title of an important work by M. Jules Simon, to be published by M. Calmann Lévy, in two volumes octavo. It will contain a full account of the period covered by the Thiers Government. An English translation will be published simultaneously by Messrs. Sampson Low and Co.

Messrs. Tegg and Co., Pancras-lane, will shortly publish "Berkeley's Principles of Human Knowledge," with introduction and copious explanations, by Collyns Simon, LL.D., author of the "Nature and Elements of the External World," and proposer of the Berkeleyian Prizes in 1848 and 1850.

Messrs. Ward, Lock, and Co. are to issue in monthly parts an illustrated library edition of Whiston's "Josephus."

Mrs. Augusta Webster has in the press a volume in prose. It will bear the title of "A Housewife's Opinions," and deals, presumably from the point of view indicated by the title, with ways and needs of nineteenth-century life. It will be published by Messrs. Macmillan and Co.

Messrs. W. and R. Chambers are preparing for publication a new series of Reading Books for Elementary Schools, to be called "The English Readers." The series will be copiously and attractively illustrated. The editor is Mr. J. M. D. Meiklejohn, Professor of Education in the University of St. Andrew's.

The *Athenaeum* says that the "authorized" life of the late Bishop of Lichfield will be written by the Rev. H. W. Tucker, M.A., assistant-secretary to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, who, in addition to the correspondence and papers of the deceased prelate, has already received material aid from several of the American and Colonial bishops. Mr. W. Wells-Gardner will be the publisher.

Mr. Ruskin hopes in a short time to be able to complete at any rate the eighth volume of "Fors Clavigera," together with a summary of the whole work. No number has appeared since his illness in March. He also intends, as soon as possible, to finish the "Proserpina," "Deucalion," and the "Laws of Fesole" series. In connection with the "Laws of Fesole," Mr. Ruskin intends to issue a folio series of engravings, from drawings by himself and others, as drawing copies for students.

Mr. Gladstone will contribute an article to the *Contemporary Review* for October. It is a reply to the Abbé Martin's paper, "What Hinders Ritualists from becoming Roman Catholics?" Professor F. W. Newman supplies a paper "On the Atheistic Controversy." The same number will contain an article from Professor Stanley Jevons, "On the Amusements of the English People"; by Mr. Goldwin Smith, "On the Greatness of England"; and by Dr. Elam, "On Liberty and Licence in Science."

The work on Sennacherib by the late George Smith will appear shortly.

M. Emile Ollivier's book on the relations of Church and State will appear in November.

Messrs. Chatto and Windus have in preparation "A History of Our Own Times," from the accession of Queen Victoria to the Berlin Congress, by Mr. Justin McCarthy, in four volumes; a new and cheaper edition of "The Life of the Greeks and Romans," translated from the German of Guhl and Koner by Dr. Kueffer; and reminiscences of the war in Turkey, by Mr. J. D. Gay, special commissioner for the *Daily Telegraph*, to be entitled, "Plevna, the Sultan, and the Porte." Mr. Julius Beerbohm's narrative of a journey on horseback from St. Julian to Sandy Point in the summer of 1877 will be published in a volume entitled, "Wanderings in Patagonia"; a Norman and Breton tour made by Mr. Thomas R. Macquoid and Mrs. Macquoid will be depicted in an illustrated book,

entitled, "Pictures and Legends from Normandy and Brittany." They further promise a new volume of popular science essays, "Pleasant Ways in Science," by Mr. R. A. Proctor; "Leisure Time Studies, chiefly Biological," by Dr. Andrew Wilson, with numerous illustrations; "The Reader's Handbook of Stories, Plots, Characters, and Allusions," by Dr. Brewer, author of the "Guide to Knowledge"; and "Tales of Old Thule," by Mr. J. Moyr Smith, profusely illustrated by the author.

THE THAMES DISASTER.

Up to the present time the number of persons known to have been drowned in the Princess Alice steamer is 640. The Woolwich jury completed on Saturday the work of identification. There are still bodies unclaimed, and few are now found. It is calculated from the number of persons missing that the total loss has been fully 700. In many cases the persons identified had been buried as "unknown," but their relatives were able to recognise their clothing or jewellery. The funeral of Mr. Frederick Whomes, organist of the Dockyard church, took place on Friday morning in Wickham Cemetery in the presence of some thousands of persons. In order to meet the wishes of those who may desire to remove to other places of interment the bodies of friends buried at Woolwich and identified since burial, the Hon. and Rev. A. Anson, rector of the parish, will obtain a faculty authorising such removal. Melancholy stories of whole families swept away by the disaster have been related by several witnesses before the coroner's jury. Offers to adopt or provide for orphans continue to be received, and the committee of the Marine Society have stated their willingness to take on board the Waspite boys who desire to be trained as sailors. The Mansion House Relief Fund has grown to large proportions during the week. On Monday it amounted to 17,500*l*.

Relative to the effects of the polluted Thames water the following statement has been made:—

Great difficulties in identification have also arisen from the changes in the colours of the dresses. It is stated that blue dresses have become altered to violet, either in the process of saturation by Thames water, at that point at its foulest, or by subsequent purification with chemicals at the Dockyard. One of the worst physical evils which some of the saved have experienced is to have swallowed quantities of the polluted water, which contains all the impurities of the Beckton Gas-works and of the main outfall of the London sewage. In one case the disease brought its own remedy—the water acted as a powerful emetic. A gentleman, of well-known name, who was saved from the wreck, but lost his wife, owes his preservation to the rejection by his system, as soon as he reached dry land, of all that he had swallowed. Many are still suffering from the involuntary draught.

A claim for 20,000*l*. has been, it is said, filed by the London Steamboat Company against Messrs. Hall, of Newcastle, and security was given for that amount before the departure of the Bywell Castle from the Thames.

Several very painful cases have come under the Rev. Styleman Herring's notice. A young woman of eighteen, who but a few days ago was plump and healthy, looks now some years older. Father, mother, three brothers and sisters are all gone, and she is now left alone in the world. A poor man from Norfolk, vainly searching for those dear to him, was found to be without a farthing. A very sad case occurred in Clerkenwell on the morning after the accident. Persons who saw the account of the accident in the newspapers ran over to a certain house and said to a young man in charge—"Have you read the news? Your father, mother, and sisters are all drowned." The young man stared vacantly for a moment, and burst into an idiotic laugh. The shock of the news had turned his brain; he had become suddenly insane, and was removed to a lunatic asylum. And after all it turned out that the informants had been misled by some similar name, and that the distraught young man's father and mother at least were saved.

The wonderful escape of one of the passengers by the ill-fated Princess Alice is directly due to the fact that he was a musician. He was playing a gigantic double bass at the time, and when the collision happened he clasped the waist of his beloved instrument, and trusted himself to the tender mercies of the Thames. The holes in the double bass were closed by his body, and the gigantic instrument was, of course, sufficiently buoyant to keep half-a-dozen men above water. Mr. C. H. Lowe, the chief surveyor of the parish of Hampstead, was, it is stated, on board the steamer when she started from Sheerness, in company with his wife, two children, and a brother-in-law, or some other relative, but on approaching Gravesend—finding the evening was closing in, and that it would be exceedingly late before they reached Blackwall—the party landed, and proceeded by train the rest of the distance. Three men were saved from death by their fondness for beer. They were making for the boat at Gravesend, after a very happy day, and as they passed along, one of them feeling thirsty from too much drink, proposed to the others "a pot of beer." They refused at first, but he persisted that he must have one more before he went on board. The pot of beer was too leisurely discussed. The men missed the Princess Alice. Mr. Robert Everest, his wife, and five children were on board the Princess Alice at the time of the fatal collision. The father and mother, with two children, a boy and a girl, were lost. Three other children were

saved. Two of them were rescued at Barking, and the youngest boy was on Thursday recognised by his friends at Plumstead Infirmary, where he had been carefully tended. A melancholy suicide has resulted from the Thames disaster. A publican named Wooll had sent his wife, five children, a servant and a barmaid for a day's pleasure to Gravesend. They were all drowned in the collision; and Mr. Wooll became so affected that he has committed suicide.

On Tuesday last week the mortal remains of Mr. Samuel Lowry, who was among the victims of the collision, were interred in Highgate Cemetery. There was a large attendance of sympathising friends. Mr. Lowry, who had retired from the business carried on in Wood-street, was the acting treasurer of the Asylum for Fatherless Children and an active member of the committee of which he was chairman. He was truly the orphan's friend, and a generous contributor to various philanthropic institutions. At the funeral the board of management of the Reedham Asylum testified their esteem for the departed by their presence in good numbers, and the head-master and mistress brought a detachment of the orphans and old scholars who followed the remains of their benefactor.

The process of identification of the bodies recovered from the wreck of the Princess Alice having been completed, the coroner on Friday commenced the inquiry into the manner in which the lamentable collision occurred. At the commencement of the proceedings the coroner mentioned a singular circumstance in connection with the work of identification. Mrs. Dalton had by certain clothing identified a body as that of her daughter, and upon her statement being confirmed by Mr. Dalton, one order was given for interment and another for the property to be given up to the Dalton family. On the following day the property was identified as belonging to another of the dead, and since then Mr. Dalton has informed the coroner that he and his wife were mistaken, as they had heard from their daughter, and they returned the property. The publication of the affidavits sworn before the Receiver of Wrecks while the case was *sub judice* was strongly censured by the coroner. It appeared from the certificate of the Princess Alice, produced by the manager of the London Steamboat Company, that the vessel was fit to carry 936 passengers between London and Gravesend, but that a deduction had to be made in certain cases. For the longer journey to Whitstable the vessel was allowed to carry 486 passengers in the summer and 339 in the winter months. This witness expressed his conviction that on the day of the disaster the vessel did not carry an excess of passengers. Important evidence was given by Long, the chief mate of the Princess Alice. He stated that he saw the lights of the Bywell Castle when she was about a mile off, and that had each vessel proceeded on the same line, looking at each other's green light, they would have passed in safety. The Princess Alice went down before there was any time to lower the boats, which were, therefore, perfectly useless. The vessel went down at once head foremost, and the passengers sat quietly on the deck and apparently did not realise the full force and effect of what had happened. The witness further deposed that the captain of the Princess Alice and the men at the wheel were perfectly sober, and that the latter were accustomed to steer; but upon being pressed he admitted that Hayles, who took charge of the wheel shortly before the collision, was a stranger, and that he volunteered and went on board at Gravesend in the place of one of the usual steersmen, who was absent. He went on board by the captain's orders, and had never been steering the vessel before. The examination of Hayles was commenced just before the adjournment of the Court. He confessed that he consented to take the place of a regular hand—a friend of his—at Gravesend, and that although he had acted as boatswain on board large sea-going ships, he had not acted in the river.

THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

The Trades Union Congress at Bristol was resumed on Tuesday last week, when the inaugural address, an able and lengthy production, was delivered by the president, Mr. G. F. Jones, who insisted that the voluntary principle was essential to the existence of trades unions. The sacredness of personal freedom should be held intact and defended at all hazards. He energetically disclaimed all sympathy with outrages on either person or property. The report of the Parliamentary Committee was subsequently adopted. The question of the employers' liability for injuries was next discussed, and the thanks of the Congress were voted to Mr. Macdonald, M.P., for his services in Parliament in connection therewith. Mr. Macdonald acknowledged the compliment, and expressed his intention of again introducing his bill on the subject.

On Wednesday, Mr. H. Compton, of London, delivered an address on the summary jurisdiction of magistrates, explaining the provisions of the bill relating to that subject which was introduced by the Home Secretary last session, and subsequently withdrawn. Mr. John Morley, the editor of the *Fortnightly Review*, next read an able and exhaustive paper on "Over-production," arguing that in some branches of manufacture limitation of production has become a necessity of the times. The other subjects considered were the Criminal Jurisdiction Bill, the abolition of imprisonment for debt, and the codification of the criminal law. On

Thursday, the Abercrombie explosion was alluded to by the president (Mr. Jones), and it was understood that a resolution in reference thereto would be submitted to the Congress. A motion was carried in favour of extending the Employers and Workmen Act to seamen. An animated discussion took place upon a proposition affirming the desirability of appointing practical men as factory inspectors under the Act; and an amendment to insert the words "and women" was carried. A paper advocating a shortening of the hours of labour was read by Mr. Adam Wieler. A public meeting, the attendance at which was limited, was held at Colston Hall in the evening.

On Friday Mr. Hunt, of Bristol, complained warmly of the refusal of the committee to allow him to read a paper condemnatory of the French sugar bounties; but the Congress, by a vote of 48 against 26, upheld the policy of the committee. A "scene"—stated to be unparalleled in the annals of these Congresses—followed, Messrs. Kelly and Peters endeavouring to obstruct the business by adopting the tactics of the Home-Rulers in the House of Commons, while Mr. Peters continued to speak in spite of the ruling of the president. The conduct of the two offenders was strongly condemned, and they at length gave way to the evident feeling of the general body. A resolution proposed by Mr. Hopkins, of that city, condemning the concentration of reformatory and industrial school labour upon one or two branches of industry, was carried unanimously. Resolutions were also passed approving of the assimilation of the borough and county franchise, and of the extension of the hours of polling.

The business of the Congress was concluded on Saturday. At the opening of the proceedings a letter was read from Mr. S. Morley, M.P., regretting that he had been unable to attend the meetings of the Congress, and adding, "My hearty wish is that the result of your recent meetings may be to knit together the two great classes of employers and employed." Mr. H. Broadhurst was elected secretary of the Parliamentary Committee, and Edinburgh was chosen as the next place of meeting. Resolutions were passed in favour of co-operation and labour representation in Parliament, and against the 23rd Clause of the Poor Law Amendment Act; and the Parliamentary Committee was instructed to prepare a list of test questions, to be submitted to candidates at the next general election.

SOCIAL REFORM IN MADAGASCAR.

(From the *Leeds Mercury*.)

Tidings lately received from Madagascar are very encouraging as to the progress which is taking place on that remarkable island. Our columns have already recorded, from official documents, the fact that the emancipation edict of the Queen has to a great extent diminished the number of Mozambique imported, and official testimony has been borne to the honest endeavours of the Hova Government to put a stop to this traffic. We cannot but believe that the abolition of African slavery will be followed at a sufficiently safe interval by the abolition of domestic slavery. But to any who think that progress in this direction is somewhat slow we would slightly alter the words put by *Punch* into the mouth of the Sultan of Zanzibar, in reply to Mr. Disraeli, and say, "The Conservative party is very strong in Madagascar." Those who know most of what is taking place there tell us that the wonder is, not that progress in this direction has been so slow, but that it has been as rapid as it has.

Recent advices from Madagascar bring us news of another proclamation by the Queen with reference to internal affairs, of which a correspondent at Antananarivo says:—"This is, I suppose, the most remarkable *Kabary* (proclamation) ever promulgated—a regular reform in the administration of government." Another writes:—"It is nothing short of a peaceful revolution, and is certainly as much as the country could bear at present."

It appears that some little time ago a new official was appointed by the Queen, who may be said to be a kind of amalgamation of our chief constable, school visitor, registrar, and sanitary inspector. One or more of this class will be placed in 156 towns and villages of Imerina, the central province, where alone the reforms will in the first place take effect. On July 4 of the present year those just appointed to the new office assembled in Antananarivo, and in the presence of a large number of people were formally instructed as to their work. Their instructions were read out by the Prime Minister in the Queen's name; they are printed in a green book, and consist of eighty-seven clauses, preceded by a preamble, of a portion of which the following is a translation:—

I thank God very much, because the Gospel of Jesus Christ has entered my land and my kingdom, to make wise my people and to make them know God, that they may obtain everlasting life in the end. And on account of this protection which I have got from God, which I see is very good, then I rested my kingdom upon God.

And I thought, and you who are among the great in my kingdom, and have been accustomed to do business, are chosen by me to be placed as *Sakaizambobitra* (literally, friends of the towns), to take care of my kingdom, to encourage the people to learn wisdom, to cause the children to go to school, to induce the idle to work, to encourage the diligent, to make my people to dwell happily in the possessions they have, and to help the widows and orphans. Therefore I place you, not in the far-off district, but here in the midst of (literally, in the stomach of) Imerina, to take oversight of my people, that all in Imerina may dwell in peace.

The first few clauses refer principally to crimes of violence, robbery, &c. No. 11 especially forbids "lynching." It was formerly the custom, and is now to some extent, when anyone was found stealing in the market, to stone him to death. 17. Here we have evidence of the continued firmness of the Government on the drink question, as all Malagasy who are found either selling, making, or drinking rum are to be taken up to the capital. 18. Runaway slaves are to be taken up to Antananarivo. 25. Those who pretend to have power to settle disputes in the Queen's name, thereby extorting money, are to be taken up to town. 27, 28. Instructions are laid down with regard to the proper distribution of the property of the deceased. 34, 35, 36. Instructions with regard to taking a census; all the people (except slaves) are to be counted once a year, their sex and occupation stated; births and marriages are to be registered, for which small fees are to be paid; and in the case of marriages they will not be recognised as legal unless properly registered. 38. Polygamy is forbidden. 43. Those who interrupt the proceedings in places of worship are to be taken prisoners. 45. Those who put away husband or wife are to be taken to the capital to show cause, &c. 48. All deaths are to be registered, and the numbers for each year reported. 49, 53. Refer to business relations between the Malagasy and foreigners; the renting of land, whether for dwelling-houses, chapels, schools, &c. 54. This may be thus translated: "Forbid to do so those who engage in work, or trade, or wash clothes on the Sunday." 55. Gives instructions to prevent any Government business from being considered in the churches on the Sunday. [This, if carried out, will be a very beneficial reform.] 60. Those who commit adultery are to be taken up to the capital. 61. The sales of all slaves must be registered; if not registered they will be not valid. 62. In the sales of slaves young children may not be separated from their parents. Then follow a number of clauses referring to the internal affairs of the people, trade, land, money, &c. 73 provides that when slaves are set free by their owners the fact is to be registered. 85. In this there is an attempt at a much-needed sanitary reform. It enacts that these newly created officials are to see that the roads in and outside the towns, as well as the yards and premises of the people, are kept clean; all rubbish and decaying matter are to be cleared away, for they cause disease. 86. All lepers are to be taken outside the towns, and all ill of smallpox are to be separated from their companions and properly nursed.

Such is the brief outline of this remarkable Malagasy State paper. We may perhaps be inclined to pity the unfortunate individuals upon whom all this work is to fall; but we must rejoice that at any rate there is a wish on the part of the authorities to carry out such needed reforms. We cannot hope or expect that this will be a magician's wand, by which all evils and abuses will be at once and for ever cleared away; but we do believe that much good will come of it. We trust that this is but the beginning of good things, which shall in due time extend, not to Imerina only, but to all parts of the country. We cordially wish the Queen of Madagascar and her Prime Minister God-speed in their endeavour to benefit the land in which they have such power, and where they are so much and so justly loved.

Epitome of News.

The Queen held a Council at Balmoral on Saturday, when it was ordered that Parliament, which now stands prorogued till the 2nd of November, should be further prorogued till the end of that month.

The Prince of Wales on Saturday left Brantingham, the seat of Mr. Sykes, M.P., where he has been staying during the Doncaster Race week. The royal party returned to London, and on Monday evening the Prince started for Abergeldie.

The Right Hon. John Bright is at present a guest of Sir Thomas and Lady Bazley at the Grange Hotel, Grange-over-Sands, where they are spending the Parliamentary recess.

It is reported that the Lord Chancellor is to be raised to a higher rank in the peerage as Earl Cairns.

Lord Salisbury left England on Friday evening for his residence near Dieppe, where the Marchioness and family were already staying.

A statue of the late Mr. John Platt, M.P. for Oldham, was unveiled in that town on Saturday.

An appeal to the Government that the released Fenian Condon might be allowed to visit Ireland on his way to America has met with a refusal. Condon, Melody, and O'Meara have been conveyed to Southampton and taken on board one of the North German Lloyd's vessels bound to New York. There will now no longer be any prisoner confined in any British prison for complicity in the rescue of Kelly and Deasy at Manchester.

Mr. Rivers Wilson has finally accepted the post of Minister of Finance in the new Egyptian Ministry. His acceptance of the office was telegraphed from London to the Khedive on Thursday last.

An agitation is springing up in some quarters against the nuisance of railway whistling, which prevails in many districts to a most afflicting extent. It is stated to be a regular habit of many enginemen, whenever they find a signal against them, to try to "whistle it off" by long-continued screams, and when four or five engines are stopped

by some temporary block of a line the variations of discord produced by their whistles, especially at night, are highly distressing to many persons even at a distance of a couple of miles. It is high time the railway boards made some attempt to check a nuisance the existence of which must be well known to them.

Cleopatra's Needle was safely placed in position on the Thames Embankment on Thursday afternoon, in the presence of many hundreds of spectators, among whom were many distinguished engineers and other scientific men. The operation of lowering the monolith, weighing altogether about 190 tons, from a horizontal to a vertical position, was conducted with great skill, and occupied less than an hour. The Queen sent a telegram of congratulation. The work of transporting the monolith from Egypt and fixing it in London has cost 15,000*l.*, of which 10,000*l.* has been given by Professor Erasmus Wilson and 5,000*l.* by Mr. John Dixon.

The Shakers, in Hampshire, have removed their goods from the roadside at Hordle to an adjoining field, and the summons on which Mrs. Girling was to appear before the magistrates on Saturday morning for causing an obstruction was accordingly withdrawn. They are, it appears, to be removed to Kingsbury, where accommodation has been offered them at the grand stand on the racecourse.

The man who was lately arrested at Kilrush, and charged with being concerned in Lord Leitrim's murder, proves to be a discharged soldier who has levied black mail on the peasantry, and he has been committed for trial for obtaining money by false pretences.

A happy termination of a bankruptcy is reported from Glasgow. The firm of Stevenson and Coats, grain millers, of Glasgow, was sequestrated, and the estates of the company and individual partners were sufficient to pay a dividend of 10*s.* 4*d.* in the pound to the creditors, the claims amounting to over 100,000*l.* Sir Peter Coats, father of Mr. George Coats, one of the partners, made an offer to pay the debts of the company in full, with interest at 5 per cent. Each of the creditors has received a cheque for the full amount with interest.

The Australian cricketers concluded a two days' match with twelve of the West of Scotland Club on Saturday at Glasgow, and won by an innings and 84 runs.

A boat containing a pleasure party of six persons capsized between Teignmouth and Dawlish on Saturday night, and two men, named Fowler and Haddon, and a woman named Steer, were drowned. The other three held on to the boat for more than an hour and were picked up by a passing smack, which landed them at Torquay. Mrs. Steer leaves a young family of five children, and Haddon a wife and four children.

The harvest home feast at Glynde Park took place on Saturday, and the Speaker in responding to the toast of his health referred to the proposal which he made five years ago to the labourers on his farm to take, on certain conditions, a share in the profits. Those profits, he said, were then about 5 per cent., but since that time they had not been so large, and therefore he had not pressed on the labourers the expediency of accepting that offer. He traced the decline of profits to the diminished yield, owing to wet weather, of some heavy land under tillage, and stated that he should lay that land down in pasture, looking forward to raising in future more meat and less corn.

An extraordinary bicycle ride is reported. Mr. W. T. Britten, captain of the Clarence Bicycle Club, on Thursday rode from London to Bath and back. Including stoppages for refreshment, the whole distance, 212 miles, was covered in twenty-three hours fifty-five minutes. This is said to be the longest run that has ever been accomplished in one day.

The Eurydice is to be broken up. Most of the movable gear has been taken out of the wreck, and a gang of shipwrights has been at work breaking up the upper portion of the hull. That having been done, the remainder will be brought into dock, where the work of breaking-up will be concluded.

The *Bristol Post* says that Mr. G. A. Lundie, of Cardiff, has received a telegram from Larnaca by his brother-in-law, Mr. Brandon, a barrister, who went to Cyprus on the acquisition of the island by England. Mr. Brandon intimates that he is returning home to England, and states that the climate of Cyprus is "pestilential and unendurable."

The first municipal election for Barselem under the new charter of incorporation was concluded on Thursday. It has resulted in the return of seventeen Liberals out of the twenty-four members elected, including the mayor and five out of six of the aldermen.

The result of the poll by which the ratepayers of Manchester were called to decide whether the corporation shall prosecute in the next session of Parliament the scheme for obtaining water from Thirlmere for the city's supply was declared on Wednesday. There were recorded 43,362 votes by 35,431 voters in favour of the scheme, against 3,530 in opposition recorded by 2,592 voters. The majority of votes in favour was therefore 39,832.

A woman at Dunmow has just been sent seven days to prison for picking ears of wheat, valued at the sum of one penny, from a gleaming field. The woman was offered the chance of paying compensation for the "damage" she had done, but refused.

A memorial, signed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Gibraltar, and a large number of the members of the Church of England Temperance Society, has been forwarded to Sir Garnet Wolseley, asking him to prevent the extension of the number of drinking houses in the Island of Cyprus. It is urged that English influence and civilisation ought not to carry with them so serious a blot and drawback as the inducement afforded by such places to habits of intemperance.

The *Times* states that the Tichborne Claimant, whose health has been suffering from his close confinement at the Portsea Convict Prison and his unceasing application to his sewing machine, is now employed upon light labour at the extension works in connection with Portsmouth Dockyard. At first he was made useful in brickmaking, but the extreme publicity of the work attracted more visitors than were convenient, and he has been since told off to a somewhat remote part of the yard near the Inflexible dock, where he is employed in preparing the stacks of offal timber for the periodical dockyard sales. He handles a saw with considerable dexterity. He is much thinner than at the time of the trial, and the convict garb has well nigh deprived him of all individuality.

For some reason or other Mormonism has not yet lost its attractions. It appears that on Saturday no fewer than 600 converts sailed from Liverpool for the land of their adoption. They came from several countries of Europe, in addition to the United Kingdom. 265 belonged to Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and adjacent countries, and sixty were from Switzerland and Germany. The efforts of the Mormon agent in Ireland were unsuccessful, for not a single emigrant came from the island, but from Scotland there were forty, from Wales fifty, and from England about 200. Information respecting the ages and sexes of the emigrants was not forthcoming.

Some time ago two pairs of ivory carvers, with the inscription "Peace with honour," were presented by a Sheffield firm to the Earl of Beaconsfield and the Marquis of Salisbury. Letters were received on Monday in acknowledgment. Mr. Algernon Turner writes:—"Lord Beaconsfield wishes me to express to you the pleasure with which he accepts the handsome and beautifully made carvers which you have presented to him. Looking at the circumstances under which they are given, his lordship feels that this is a yet further proof of the sympathy and support which he has received from the people of Sheffield during the trying labours of the past two years; and in thanking you he desires me to say, that he not only values the gift in itself, but appreciates still more the feeling which prompts it." The Marquis of Salisbury's secretary writes that it is very gratifying to his lordship as a public man to receive such a token of appreciation of the foreign policy of the Government, and that the value of the present is greatly increased by the kind expressions contained in the letter which accompanied it.

Reports have come to hand from various parts of the country as to the severe and destructive character of the gale which prevailed during Sunday and Monday. Some damage was done to shipping, and in one case two men were drowned. Fruit crops suffered much.

It is stated that the idea of an underground railway for Glasgow has been revived, and that plans are being prepared for the purpose.

At a conference of temperance workers in the Congregational Chapel, Orange-street, Leicester-square, which took place on Friday last, Mr. Noble in the chair, supported by a deputation from Hoxton Music Hall, and about 130 other friends of temperance, a committee was formed to organise public meetings for the centre of London.

It is stated that 128,277 foreigners slept in Parisian hotels and furnished lodgings on Wednesday night, only 6,514 beds remaining vacant.

There was a grand review at Vincennes on Sunday, which attracted the populace of Paris in great crowds. The corps d'armée upon which most attention was bestowed was that under General Deligny, which has recently taken part in the French autumn manoeuvres. The marching past is described as all that could be desired. The Duke of Cambridge was present on the ground, with Marshal MacMahon.

A French confectioner named Chevan has been sentenced to a month's imprisonment for mixing arsenic with the wafer employed at the first communion in a nun's school at La Clâtie. Sixty persons—pupils, parents, and nuns—were taken ill after the mass; and it turned out that the confectioner used the arsenic for the purpose of bringing the school and the doctrines of the Church into discredit.

Telegrams from Naples describe the continuance of great activity in Vesuvius, above the new crater, of which volumes of lava are reported to be thrown to a height of 100 yards, accompanied by loud explosions.

Some of the Italian newspapers publish a foolish letter from General Garibaldi, addressed to the young men of Genoa, calling upon them to prepare for war with Austria. A telegram from Rome says that the public generally regard this appeal with indifference.

The King of Italy, who was accompanied by the Queen, reviewed two army corps on Thursday, numbering 25,000 men, at Ghedi, in the province of Brescia. The Ministers of War and the Interior, Signori Bruzzo and Zanardelli, were present, as

well as several foreign officers. The latter subsequently were presented to their Majesties, and the King shook hands with them. The King and Queen and the Ministers afterwards took their departure, amid the cheers of the spectators. With this review the Italian autumn manoeuvres have come to an end.

Prince Bismarck, in a letter to the Berlin Trade Corporation, says he is confident that the close of the late war, and the preventing of the threatened war, are pledges of peace. He would not cease to labour for the preservation of peace so long as God granted him strength to do so.

Count Willy Bismarck, the Chancellor's younger son, who is twenty-six years of age, has been successful at the second ballot at Langensalza. The balance was turned in his favour by the Catholic electors, who, withdrawing their own candidate, had previously asked him whether he would promote cessation of the "Culturkampf." He replied that he did not think the question would come before the Reichstag, but that if it did, he should be guided by his father's advice and his father's conciliatory disposition towards the Catholic Church.

The leading parties in the German Parliament have come to a resolution privately that the Government bill for the repression of Socialism shall be referred to a committee after the first reading. It is proposed that the committee shall consist of twenty-eight members, and shall include one Socialist. The Ultramontanes and Poles are determined to try to obtain the rejection of the bill. The Progressists are likewise opposed to it. The ultimate passing of the bill is still regarded as a certainty in official circles. Prince Bismarck will not speak till to-morrow.

The Italian Minister of Public Works, Signor Bacarini, in a speech which he delivered recently at Codigoro, has given his countrymen a piece of advice which they could not lay too much to heart. Alluding to the anti-Austrian agitation, Signor Bacarini said the *Italia Irredenta* to which they should turn their eyes was the immense areas of unproductive land covered with swamps exhalting malaria with which some parts of Italy abounded.

A Roman telegram says that Cardinal Nina has instructed the Papal Nuncio at Brussels to sound the President of the Council as to the views of the Belgian Government relative to the question of accrediting a diplomatic representative to the Vatican. The Pontifical Secretary of State has intimated that the Holy See on its part would, if necessary, consent to a revision of the Concordat in such a manner as to concede to the State certain prerogatives in civil affairs which the bishops at present possess.

President Hayes has arrived at Chicago. In a speech addressed to the Board of Trade he declared that the course pursued by Mr. Sherman in regard to the finances of the country was fair, open, and honest. He deprecated any interference on the part of the Legislature with the currency, or with the resumption of specie payments, as calculated to shake the confidence of business men and to retard the revival of prosperity. The President held a reception in the evening, which was numerously attended.

Lord Dufferin will, it is understood, remain at Ottawa in order to receive the Marquis of Lorne and Her Royal Highness Princess Louise on their arrival in Canada, for which event great preparations are being made.

The correspondent of the *Daily News* at Cyprus says it is apprehended that the October rains will increase the fever tendency, to counteract which so far everything has been done. From June to October the natives, notwithstanding their vegetarianism, suffer severely from fever, 20 per cent. of whom are fever-struck during an unhealthy season. They urge that the fever is not fatal; but the correspondent says, in answer to this, that six weeks of Cyprus service has produced as many fatal casualties in its garrison as would a whole year of home service. About 620 tons of hutting are being delivered at Woolwich for transport to Cyprus.

Miscellaneous.

It has been definitively decided that Waterloo Bridge is to be thrown open free to the public in the second week in October next.

We are informed that the various statements made regarding a change of proprietorship in *Good Words* and the *Sunday Magazine* are not correct. These magazines have not changed hands, and will be carried on under precisely the same circumstances with regard to editing and publishing as heretofore.

The *Times* correspondent at Constantinople is now Mr. Mackenzie Wallace, author of the well-known and justly esteemed work on Russia published with so much success about a year ago. At the beginning of the war Mr. Wallace, it will be remembered, represented the *Times* at St. Petersburg, and there are just now so many Russians at and near Constantinople that it is by no means unimportant to have in that capital a correspondent who understands Russian affairs and the Russian language.

MR. GLADSTONE ON "OUR KIN BEYOND THE SEA."—Mr. Gladstone, in the new number of the *North American Review*, has an interesting article on "Our Kin Beyond the Sea." It gives frank recognition to the manufacturing and producing powers of the United States, and, after referring to the surprising growth of England in wealth during

his own experience, he says:—"While we have been advancing with this portentous rapidity, America is passing us in a canter; yet even now the work of searching the soil and the bowels of the territory, and opening out her enterprise through its vast expanse, is in its infancy. The England and the America of the present are probably the two strongest nations of the world; but there can hardly be a doubt, as between the England and America of the future, that the daughter at no very distant time will, whether fairer or less fair, be unquestionably stronger than the mother. America will probably become what we are now, the head servant in the great household of the world, the employed of all. We have no more title against her than Venice, or Genoa, or Holland has against us." Mr. Gladstone finally suggests to England the duty of preparation, that she should reduce her public burdens now while she has the power, before the day comes when her capacity to bear them will be less than now.

FEMALE SERVANTS.—A western county contemporary says that a strike is imminent among the female domestics of South Molton, in Devonshire, unless they are allowed to give up the use of caps, or, rather, of the scanty strips of network which are supposed to represent those articles. It is not easy to imagine how this cap question could result in a strike, but that it is talked about is an evidence that there exists among our female servants a determination to reject altogether the semblance of a cap, which they take to be a badge of servitude. It would be rather amusing to notice how the cap has of late years got smaller by degrees and beautifully less, were it not that this gradual diminution is an outward sign of what seems to be an organisation, or at least a general understanding, among our domestics that as far as possible all outward distinctions between mistresses and servants shall be abolished. With almost one heart and one voice they have dropped the good old terms of "Master" and "Mistress," and only when they cannot help it will they use those of "Mr." and "Mrs." Probably the next move will be to object to being themselves called by the term of "servants," and insist on "lady helps," or some such appellation, being substituted. Aprons, of course, will be soon discarded, as, like caps, they are badges of slavery. Of course, in one sense, it is quite immaterial to masters and mistresses what articles of dress their servants wear or refuse to wear; but it really seems that the time has come when, if only for the sake of the silly creatures themselves, some stand should be made against the foolish vagaries and painful assumptions of "servantism."—*Standard*.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ROYAL PREROGATIVE.—In reply to resolutions passed by the West Ham Liberal Association thanking them for the course they had taken with regard to the Anglo-Turkish Convention, Lord Hartington, Mr. Gladstone, and Mr. Lowe have sent their acknowledgments. The communications of the former are merely formal. Mr. Lowe, replying at some length, says:—"It seems to be assumed that if a Government possesses the confidence of a majority of the House of Commons, without which it would not long be a Government at all, it is at liberty to strain the prerogative in any manner which it may think proper. Such a doctrine seems to me utterly subversive of that moderation and respect for the feelings of others on which our liberties and happiness are built. If every part of the Constitution were to strain its powers to the utmost, if the principle which is now laid down with regard to majorities were to be extended to the different branches of the Legislature, the whole machinery of our Government would soon be brought to a dead-lock. I am quite willing to submit to the legislation and the will of a majority, but I utterly deny the right of a majority first to strain the prerogative of the Crown to purposes which it was never intended to touch, and then to acquit themselves from all blame by the vote of a mere party majority. It is obvious that if this is the spirit in which our institutions are to be worked, the temperate liberty in which we have hitherto rejoiced is gone, and we must henceforth be contented to live under a despotism vested in the hands of those who may for the time possess the majority in the House of Commons."

THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON AND DEGREES FOR WOMEN.—A new supplemental charter having been granted to the University a few months since, on the joint application of the Senate and of Convocation, empowering the Senate to admit women to graduate in its several faculties (arts, science, law, medicine, and music), on such conditions as the Senate, with the concurrence of the Home Secretary, should deem expedient, the Senate lost no time in passing a resolution which made all the existing regulations, relating not only to graduation, but also to the various honours and rewards granted at the several examinations, open to female as well as to male candidates. This resolution having been now approved by the Home Secretary, female candidates will be admitted forthwith to the matriculation examination; and all such as have already passed the general examination for women will be considered as having matriculated, and will be admissible (after the required interval) to the first degree examination in either of the faculties. Further, with a view to the special encouragement of female candidates desiring to go through a regular Academical course, the trustees of the Gilchrist Educational Trust have instituted two exhibitions, one of 30*l.*, the other of 20*l.* per annum, tenable for two years, to the female candidates who pass highest in the

honours division at the Matriculation Examination; and two exhibitions, one of 40*l.*, the other of 30*l.* per annum, tenable for two years, to the female candidates who pass highest at the first B.A. Examination (provided that they obtain in the first case two thirds, and in the second three-fifths, of the total number of marks), to assist them in pursuing their studies at some collegiate institution approved by the trustees; with the further reward of a gold medal of the value of 20*l.* (or of a book prize of the same value) to the female candidate who passes highest at the second B.A. Examination, if she obtains not less than two-thirds of the total number of marks. These rewards are quite independent of those granted by the University, and may be held in conjunction with them. Further particulars may be obtained by application to the Registrar of the University, London, W.

Gleanings.

A London tradesman has produced a new perfume, which he styles "the extract of Cyprus flowers."

There is an umbrella 107 years old. It was made in the reign of George III., and has passed through many rains since.

One San Francisco paper in the morning reported the sad death of a deaf-and-dumb girl. Its evening rival, not to be outdone, gave her last words.

A little American boy, asking a mate who Good Friday was, received the withering reply, "Well, you go home and read your 'Robinson Crusoe.'"

A gentleman named Brown once observed in company that he had toasted a lady for twelve months, and yet had little hopes of making her Brown.

A company of settlers, in naming their new town, called it Dictionary, because, as they said, "that's the only place where peace, prosperity, and happiness are always found."

"Brilliant and impulsive people," said a lecturer on physiognomy, "have black eyes, or if they don't have 'em they're apt to get 'em, if they're too impulsive."

"Beggars can't be choosers," says an old adage. But a beggar got into the hall way the other day and chose from the hat-rack forthwith three hats, one umbrella, and the best overcoat.

A late minister of Biggar, who was a reader in the pulpit, closed his discourse with the words, "I add no more." "Because ye canna!" exclaimed an old woman from her pew.

In a country churchyard there is the following epitaph:—"Here lies the body of James Robinson and Ruth his wife;" and underneath this equivocal text, "Their warfare is accomplished."

A class was being recently examined in the seabeaten town of S—. The subject under discussion was the Flood. Among the first questions put was, "How did Noah understand that there was going to be a flood?" "Cause," shouted an urchin, "he looked at his almanack."

An Englishman boasting to a Yankee that they had a book in the British Museum which was once owned by Cicero, "Oh, that ain't nothin," retorted the Yankee, "in the museum at Boston they've got the lead-pencil that Noah used to check off the animals that went into the ark."

"Doctor," said a lady, living not a hundred miles from England's first naval port, "I want you to prescribe for me." "There is nothing the matter, madam," said the doctor, after feeling her pulse; "you only need rest." "Now, doctor, just look at my tongue," she persisted; "what does that need?" "That needs rest, too," replied the doctor.

A USEFUL CLERGYMAN.—The following curious advertisement appears in a provincial newspaper:—"The Rev. — can recommend a young woman of about twenty-seven years of age of excellent character and behaviour, as parlour maid; also can milk a cow or two."

HAPPY COUPLE!—The Michigan papers tell a story of a man who, having separated from his wife after several years of married life, advertised for another helpmate under an assumed name. His divorced wife replied to him, also under an assumed name. They met by appointment, and one can conceive their surprise on recognising each other. The matter, however, ended happily, and after exchanging explanations they resolved to forget the past and to marry again.

A DOUBTFUL COMPLIMENT.—At a public temperance meeting held in Nantwich in connection with the anniversary of the Total Abstinence Society, one of the local ministers started the hymn, "Hold the fort," in order to beguile the time until the committee and deputation arrived. The first verse was sung by the audience, when the speakers and their friends, with the Mayor of Chester at their head, emerged from the ante-room. Their appearance was hailed with considerable applause, and, as they ascended the platform, the melody was taken up with renewed energy at the point, "See the mighty host advancing, Satan leading on." Of course nothing personal was intended, but the incongruity of the incident was apparent, and possibly to some a little amusing.

MR. IRVING AND THE RUSTIC.—During his visit to Northampton, Mr. Irving related an amusing anecdote. Ten years ago, while passing with Mr. Toole through Stratford-on-Avon, he saw a rustic sitting on a fence. "That's Shakespeare's house, isn't it?" he asked, pointing to the building. "Yes." "Ever been there?" "No." "How long has he been dead?" "Don't know." "Many people come here?" "Yes; lots." "Been to the house?" "No; never been to the house." "What did he

do?" "Don't know." "Brought up here?" "Yes." "Did he write anything like the *Family Herald*, or anything of that sort?" "O, yes; he writ." "What was it? You must know." "Well," said the rustic, "I think he wrote for the Bible."

A DARING SPECULATOR.—The morning after the signature of the private Anglo-Turkish Treaty for the cession of Cyprus to England—that is to say, the 4th of June—Mr. Zarify, the well-known banker of Constantinople, despatched to Larnaca by the Austrian Lloyd's packet one of his *employes* with sealed instructions, which he was not to open until he arrived in Cyprus. The instructions proved to be an unlimited credit and authority to purchase everywhere all the agent could get hold of, whether houses, land, or cattle, without loss of time. The agent, with assistants, succeeded in buying property to the extent of 40,000*l.*, consisting of houses, shops, lands in town and country, cultivated fields, cattle, &c., all of which were obtained at very low rates, owing to the prevailing misery throughout the country. To-day this property is worth more than 300,000*l.*

ADVICE TO A POETIC CRITIC.—A young editor of a local paper at Saratoga heard a Frenchwoman sing some songs, and thus burst forth himself:—"What shall we say of Marie Roze? What words can convey any idea of those sweet, pure, rich, delicious tones which seem to gush forth from an inexhaustible fountain of melody? What glorious visions filled the mind as the great column of music, forced higher and higher, at last broke into spray, and the air seemed full of diamonds and pearls and opals and sapphires, all lighted up by the singer's lustrous beauty. Or it was like the waves of the ocean, driven on the beach by some unseen but irresistible force, which first inspire awe by their power and then delight by their brilliancy as the white crests are broken into glittering jewels on the sand." Cease your similes, young man, and go and drown yourself.—*Chicago Times.*

SEASONABLE HEAD-DRESSES.—The extravagance of female fancy in the matter of dress, or, as we should perhaps rather say of those who prescribe to the female world what it shall and shall not wear, has of late been concentrated more especially upon the invention of new head-dresses. The reign of chignons being past, and these unseemly appendages having been consigned to oblivion, together with the gold dust of the last generation and the powder of the last century, it is reserved for the present age to devote its principal attention not so much to the hair itself as to that which is worn over it. Accordingly, although the rage for strange hats and bonnets appeared to have reached its height some months ago, it is now announced from Paris that the same mania is still to be carried to far more outrageous lengths, and that the autumn is to outdo in the way of feminine headgear all the boasted triumphs of the spring and summer. A similar principle to that which prescribed cherries and peach blossoms and almost every sort of flower and fruit is now about to be followed in the adoption of autumnal products. Already at the most fashionable bathing places the poppies and convolvuli of the late summer are being displaced and vine-leaves with great bunches of grapes substituted. The Paris *Pigaro* comes from the capital of fashion with tidings of other ornaments, all of a "seasonable" kind. The green and spiky nobs of the cheanut in all stages of growth are to be seen dangling gracefully from one straw hat; from another bunches of filberts seem to invite the hand of the passer-by; while the more modest bidder for fashionable honour attaches to her headdress a collection of the small hanging globes of the plane tree. A short time more and we shall have the fruit actually growing on the hats, and be able to watch the progress of the seasons as we see it grow and ripen and at length fall off.—*Globe.*

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTH.

UNWIN.—Sept. 17, at Chilworth, Surrey, the wife of George Unwin, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

MARTIN—THORPE.—Sept. 6, at College-street Chapel, Northampton, by the Rev. J. T. Brown, the Rev. T. H. Martin, of Wallingford, son of Rev. T. Martin, of India, to Clara Eliza Thorpe, eldest daughter of the late Rev. T. M. Thorpe.

WATSON—CAY.—Sept. 10, at Harley-street Congregational Chapel, by the Rev. John Kennedy, D.D., Ralph Watson, second son of Mr. Robert Watson, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, to Agnes, third daughter of Capt. in Alexander Cay, of London.

MASON—MARNER.—Sept. 10, at New Court, Tollington Park, W. H. Mason, of Blythwood-road, Crouch-hill, son of the late H. Mason, of Hildrop-crescent, Tufnell Park, to Louisa, daughter of H. G. Marner, of Woodberry Vale, Green-lanes.

MATTHEWS—COPE.—Sept. 10, at Park Church, Highbury-new-park, by the Rev. Geo. Burgess, of Bourne-mouth, brother-in-law of the bridegroom, assisted by the Rev. William Marshall, of Hackney, Percy Matthews, of Regensberg, Hazville-road, youngest son of the late Marmaduke Matthews, of St. Andrew's place, Regent's Park, to Adelaide, fourth daughter of W. Cope, Esq., of Highbury-park.

GRAHAM—DRANSFIELD.—Sept. 11, at Camberwell-green Chapel, by the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, assisted by the Rev. John Adams, of Worthing, George Edward, eldest surviving son of Thomas Graham Graham, of Trevor, Worthing, to Annie, eldest daughter of Thomas J. Dransfield, and adopted niece of the Misses Dransfield, of Surbiton House, Champion-hill, Surrey.

BOWMAN—ROBERTS.—Sept. 11, at Chorlton-road Congregational Church, Manchester, by the Rev. J. A. Macfarlane, M.A., Harold, younger son of David Bowman, M.D., Mountheth, Old Trafford, to Mary Ada, fourth daughter of Thomas Roberts, The Hollies, Kersal Edge.

ADAMSON—HUTTON.—Sept. 12, at Woodford Congregational Church, by the Rev. W. B. Macwilliam, assisted by the Rev. J. W. Todd, D.D., Forest Hill, John Adamson, Esq., London, to Christina, daughter of Captain J. S. Hutton, shipowner, of London and Glasgow, and of Ivy Bank, Snarebrook.

CULLEY—CULLEY.—Sept. 12, at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, by the Rev. J. M. Stephens, B.A., William Richard, only son of Richard Spelman Culley, of St. Martin, Weston-super-Mare, to Annie, eldest daughter of Edward Culley, of Jesmond, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

WILLS—PROCTOR.—Sept. 12, at Redland Park Church, Bristol, by the Rev. U. R. Thomas, assisted by the Rev. H. Mayo Gunn, of Sevenoaks, uncle of the bridegroom, George Alfred, eldest son of H. O. Wills, of Redland Knoll, Bristol, to Susan Britton, eldest daughter of the late Robert Proctor, of Clifton.

HOCKEN—PAYNE.—Sept. 13, at Holloway Congregational Church, by the Rev. Mark Wilks, John George, son of the late S. B. Hocken, of Dalston, to Emma Jane, eldest daughter of the late Frederic Payne, of the Stock Exchange.

DEATHS.

HAZELL.—Sept. 7, at 8, St. James-road, Victoria Park, Miriam, widow of the late William Langley Hazell, aged 42 years.

KNIGHT.—Sept. 9, after a nine days' illness, Amelia, for 45 years the beloved wife of G. J. Knight, of Albion International College, Broadway, South Hackney, aged 67.

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